

Your response

Question	Your response
Question 1: Do you agree with our proposed approach to designating a Universal Service Provider?	Yes, but with the caveats listed below.

Response continued:-

Direct designation is only preferred if the potential providers have valid plans to deliver complete ubiquity. There is a danger that, as with the original USO, the final few percent of most difficult households will have to wait many years to achieve the new USO 10Mbps service.

It is hoped that Ofcom will recognise that a mixture of infrastructures will be required including fibre, mobile and satellite and that this should reflect the most cost effective and value for money basis.

It is always the final few percent who are the most difficult, take the longest and are the costliest using terrestrial means, this need not be the case and Ofcom need to ensure the most difficult and most expensive to supply are planned first. Utilising modern satellites for the final few percent can be the quickest and cheapest method of delivery. If specified correctly they will also automatically be able to receive faster speeds as the USO develops beyond 10Mbps, even above 25Mbps.

This consultation concerns the USO, but it is hoped that Ofcom will take the holistic view that rural connectivity and growth is more than just static broadband to homes and will take account that satellite will also be needed in the infrastructure mix to deliver COTM to the most rural areas.

