making communications work
for everyone

Your response

Question	Your response
Do you have any comments on our proposal to apply Code powers to the Applicant?	Confidential? – N This seems to be a means by which a commercial company can seize public assets, by-passing any Section 106 agreement that would ensure that some contribution to the community in which it erects its masts, is made. Equally, this company seeks a special treatment in terms of rent which is not available to, for example, property renters. There is little information supplied in the document to back up the company's claim for an increased number of masts but increasing its capacity by 134% seems disproportionate, especially as no new airports are planned in the next 12 years. The applicant shares and expects to share any new sites with other electronic communications companies. It is unlikely that it will do so without making some profit, which would not benefit the public whose land has been requisitioned. I accept that this network is vitally important but is there a system for independent assessment on whether individual masts are needed? Certainly in the case of mobile phone networks, there is no such system in place, which has led to a proliferation of masts in London (and a dearth in rural areas and discontent among UK citizens. Also, new technology may make such enormous masts redundant, but what incentive would this company have for such an investment or the removal of outdated masts? The proposal will affect a large number of communities. NATS (En Route) generates a pre-tax profit of over £134 million and if applications to erect masts were subject to

	normal planning regulations, some compensation could be offered to the communities affected. My preference would be for this proposal to be rejected and applications treated under the normal planning process. If this is not acceptable, may I suggest the Ofcom commissions an independent team of experts to assess every application and to ensure that technologically redundant masts are removed.