



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

29th March 2019

Dear Jeremy,

Mobile Phone Roaming in Rural Areas

A lack of coordination between the network providers has left many rural areas covered by some but not all of the networks. This is hampering economic, educational and leisure opportunities for residents in rural areas and remains a significant brake on growth for the local, regional and national economy. The introduction of roaming between networks will vastly increase the operational coverage for many of our constituents.

The DCMS consultation on the Statement of Strategic Priorities for telecommunications, the management of radio spectrum and postal services calls on Ofcom to fully consider the costs and benefits of roaming in rural areas. We the cosignatories of this letter are members representing rural constituencies and we fully agree with item 31 on page 19:

“Roaming in rural areas also has the potential to improve consumer choice and address partial not-spots (where one or more operators are present, but all four are not). Ofcom should fully consider the costs and benefits of achieving this outcome, and maintain the option of requiring roaming by including appropriate provisions when granting rights of use for spectrum.”

Ofcom’s position on this in their document, *Further options for improving mobile coverage*, agrees that it would improve coverage and that the surest way to deliver this is with the “co-operation of operators”.

Please could you do all that you can to ensure that effective roaming in rural areas is made a requirement of the network providers.

Yours ever,

Kevin Hollinrake MP
Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Michael Tomlinson MP

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Rt Hon Dame Caroline Spelman MP
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP
Rt Hon Dame Cheryl Gillan MP
Pauline Latham OBE MP
John Lamont MP

Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP
Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
The Lord Mendelsohn
Sir David Amess MP
Tom Tugendhat MBE MP
Daniel Kawczynski MP

Antoinette Sandbach MP
Dr Lisa Cameron MP
Kirstene Hair MP
Michael Fabricant MP
Mark Prisk MP
Catherine West MP
Heidi Allen MP
Helen Whately MP
Gerald Jones MP
Sarah Champion MP
Marty Day MP
Martin Whitfield MP
Julian Sturdy MP
Steve Double MP
Ben Lake MP
Neil O'Brien MP
Scott Mann MP
Helen Hayes MP
Rosie Cooper MP
Tracy Brabin MP

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP
Gillian Keegan MP
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Victoria Prentis MP
Gareth Thomas MP
Colin Clark MP
Robert Courts MP
Mark Garnier MP
David Warburton MP
Tim Loughton MP
Andrew Selous MP
Alex Sobel MP
Rachel Maclean MP
Bill Grant MP
Tim Farron MP
Barry Sheerman MP
Nigel Evans MP
Kevin Barron MP
Brendan O'Hara MP

Stuart McDonald MP
Dan Jarvis MP
Nic Dakin MP
Dr David Drew MP
Douglas Ross MP
Peter Aldous MP
Glyn Davies MP
Martin Vickers MP
Jeremy Lefroy MP
Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Maria Caulfield MP
John Grogan MP
Stephen Kerr MP
David Duguid MP
Giles Watling MP
Damien Moore MP
Andrew Griffiths MP
Mark Menzies MP
Charlie Elphicke MP