



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016/0250, 13 December 2016

# Broadband Universal Service Obligation

This pack has been prepared ahead of the debate to be held in the Commons Chamber on Thursday 15 December 2016 on a Broadband Universal Service Obligation. The subject for the debate has been selected by the Backbench Business Committee and the debate will be opened by Matt Warman MP.

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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# 1. Broadband Universal Service Obligation

## 1.1 Background

Plans to introduce a broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) were first announced by the Government in November 2015.

A consultation on the process the Government intended to follow to deliver a broadband USO ran from March-April 2016.<sup>1</sup>

In the Queen's Speech on 18 May 2016 the Government announced its intention to legislate for a broadband USO in the [Digital Economy Bill](#). The Bill has progressed through the Commons and received its Second reading in the Lords on 13 December 2016.

In October 2016, the Government explained the broadband USO as follows:

The USO gives people a legal right to an affordable, fast broadband connection on demand from a designated Universal Service Provider, at a minimum speed of 10 Mbps, no matter where they live or work, up to a reasonable cost threshold.<sup>2</sup>

The Government intends for the USO to be in place by 2020 at the latest.<sup>3</sup>

## 1.2 Developing the details of a Universal Service Obligation

The Digital Economy Bill contains enabling powers for a USO to be specified in secondary legislation.

The Government has [commissioned Ofcom](#) to provide technical analysis and recommendations about the design of the USO, including costs, technologies and funding. Ofcom ran a call for inputs between April-June 2016 inviting views from stakeholders and a [summary of responses](#) was published which summarised the responses into two broad visions:

- A vision for a more highly specified universal service for all, with the cost of such interventions a more secondary consideration; or
- A belief that people and businesses need a safety net to complement existing public and private sector-led broadband deployments.<sup>4</sup>

Ofcom intends to produce a report by the end of 2016, following which the Government will develop draft secondary legislation setting out the scope, including specific requirements and guidance for the design of

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Culture, Media and Sport, [Consultation outcome Broadband Universal Service Obligation](#), 23 March 2016

<sup>2</sup> Department for Culture, Media and Sport, [A new broadband Universal Service Obligation Statement of Intent](#), 11 October 2016

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ofcom, [Designing the broadband universal service obligation, Summary of responses to the call for inputs](#), 16 August 2016

the USO. The Government's intention is to consult of the draft legislation, which will be accompanied by a regulatory impact assessment. Once the secondary legislation is in place, Ofcom will then carry out work on the detailed design of the USO and on its regulatory implementation.<sup>5</sup>

The USO will have to be designed to conform to the requirements of the [EU Universal Service Directive](#) (2002/22/EC).

### 1.3 Further resources

The following resources provide detailed background and analysis of relevance to this debate:

- Library Briefing Paper on [Superfast Broadband Coverage in the UK](#)
- [Library analysis of the Digital Economy Bill](#) prior to Second Reading
- Library [Committee Stage report on the Digital Economy Bill](#)
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport, [A new broadband Universal Service Obligation Statement of Intent](#) (11 October 2016)
- European Parliament Briefing, [Broadband as a universal service](#) (April 2016)
- House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee [Establishing world-class connectivity throughout the UK](#) HC147 2016-17 19 July 2016 and [Responses](#) HC714 12 October 2016

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<sup>5</sup> DCMS, [Broadband USO consultation, summary of responses and Government response](#), 17 May 2016

## 2. News items

Computer Weekly

**No appetite among ISPs to become broadband USO provider, says Ofcom**

Alex Scropton 16 August 2016

<http://www.computerweekly.com/news/450302582/No-appetite-among-ISPs-to-become-broadband-USO-provider-says-Ofcom>

ISP Review

**Local UK Councils Demand Action on 10Mbps Broadband USO Pledge**

Mark Jackson 27 July 2016

<http://www.ispreview.co.uk/index.php/2016/07/local-uk-councils-demand-action-10mbps-broadband-uso-pledge.html>

BBC Online

**Rural broadband only on request, says government**

Jane Wakefield 6 May 2016

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-36225971>

Financial Times

**Ministers plan to make universal broadband a 'must-have' in UK**

Daniel Thomas 23 March 2016

<https://www.ft.com/content/a8518502-f100-11e5-aff5-19b4e253664a>

## 3. Press releases

### **Broadband Stakeholder Group**

#### **Ofcom's consultation on the broadband USO – responses highlight divergence of visions**

Ofcom published last week [a summary of responses to its April 2016 consultation](#) on the design of the broadband universal service obligation (USO). The [Government proposed last year to introduce a USO of 10Mbit/s](#) available to all premises and tasked Ofcom to produce technical advice and recommendations to support its design. 115 responses to [Ofcom's call for inputs \(CFI\)](#) were received, highlighting various perspectives and approaches to achieve universal decent broadband coverage in the UK.

Ofcom identified two alternative visions of how "decent" universal broadband coverage can be achieved. On one hand, some stakeholders (predominantly the public sector, consumer groups and individuals) favoured a highly specified universal service for all, comparable to what is delivered commercially, with a preference for fibre technologies. On the other hand, others (mostly industry) see the USO as a safety net complementing existing public and private sector-led broadband deployments (BDUK programme). The latter group raised concerns over the potential for a highly-specified USO to distort the market and therefore favoured giving the market freedom to allow providers to set prices and offer differently specified USO services.

Taking into account stakeholders' views, Ofcom will provide in December 2016 Government with a final report advising on the range of options for the design of the USO. Before that, Ofcom will publish its Connected Nations report which will include updated figures on the progress in the deployment of broadband in the UK.

The BSG responded to Ofcom's consultation and will continue to play an active role in this debate.

### **Local Government Association**

#### **Councils urge Government to re-affirm its Broadband commitment**

**27 July 2016**

The Government needs to re-affirm its commitment to a national minimum broadband speed across the country to stop hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses falling into a "digital twilight zone", councils say today.

The Local Government Association (LGA) said a timetable for action from the Government is now needed after delays to the Digital Economy Bill and the Government's Digital Strategy and as Matt Hancock replaced Ed Vaizey as Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The DCMS has estimated that the number of households that will be unable to access a 10Mbps (Megabits per second) service by 2017 is likely to be as high as one million, with 100,000 of those in remote rural areas.

The LGA, which represents more than 370 councils in England and Wales, says access to fast and reliable digital connectivity is a necessity for households and businesses in the UK. It recently launched an 'Up to Speed' campaign to ensure every resident and business has access to faster broadband.

Councils have played a big role in the extension of digital connectivity to households through the Superfast Broadband Programme. Around £740 million of the £1.7 billion invested in this has come from local government. Many councils are aiming to beat the Government's national target of 95 per cent coverage of premises by December 2017. Councils are also working to find solutions to extend provision to those in the final five percent.

The Government has pledged to give everybody the legal right to request a broadband connection capable of delivering a minimum download speed of 10Mbps by 2020. This speed roughly allows a family to watch a high-definition film and a catch-up TV programme and make a video call simultaneously. Currently, speeds in many remote rural areas fall well below 2Mbps during key periods, such as when children get home from school, during holidays and after 6pm.

Local government leaders support the Government's planned creation of a national minimum broadband speed as part of a Universal Service Obligation (USO) for broadband users but are calling for a safety net for those who are unlikely to be covered by roll out plans.

The Government also needs to legislate for the USO's minimum speed to be reviewed at appropriate intervals and upgraded when necessary. The USO specification should define minimum levels of provision for a range of factors, shifting the focus away from headline speeds, which can be misleading, towards other indicators, including upload speed, that provide a more realistic way of determining an internet connection's quality.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chairman of the LGA's People and Places Board, said:

"It is undeniable that access to fast and reliable digital connectivity is a necessity for households and businesses in the UK.

"Good digital connectivity is a vital element of everyday life for residents and can help them cut household bills, shop online for cheaper goods, stay in touch with distant relatives, file tax returns and access their bank

accounts. As central and local government services increasingly become 'digital by default', more people will need to have faster and more reliable speeds.

"It is paramount that the Government maintains momentum and presses ahead with plans to enshrine the USO in law. We hope that the recent changes in Government do not delay work on the USO and call on ministers to reaffirm their commitment to it.

"Equally, while this minimum standard is a good start it must keep pace with national average speeds and the expectations of households especially at peak times. Without this there is the real possibility of some areas – particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas - falling into a digital twilight zone.

"Achieving 10Mbps should just be the start and something to build on because demand for and availability of faster speeds continues to grow. For the farmer applying for funding, the small business processing its invoices or the GP checking the availability of medicines, broadband is communities' lifeblood.

"Councils are best placed to understand the digital needs of local areas. They are at the centre of improving digital connectivity through helping implement superfast broadband programmes, organising local initiatives to raise residents' and businesses' digital skills and working with mobile operators to best place infrastructure.

"Ensuring residents and businesses across the country are provided with fast and reliable digital connectivity will be key to achieving the Government's ambition of an economy that works for all."

#### *Notes to editors*

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee's report [Establishing world class connectivity throughout the UK](#) was published on 19 July.

The LGA launched its [Up To Speed](#) campaign earlier this year.

The Digital Strategy is an overview of the Government's digital objectives for the next five years and was originally expected early this year.

[Broadband Delivery UK \(BDUK\) is the Department for Culture, Media and Sport programme](#) to deliver superfast broadband (speeds of 24Mbps or more) to 95% of the UK by December 2017 and access to basic broadband (2Mbps) for all from December 2015. As well as 47 local projects across the country BDUK explores options to provide superfast coverage to the hardest to reach parts of the UK and supported growth with the now closed Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme which encouraged SMEs to take up superfast broadband.

Currently, [many remote rural areas have well below 2Mbps during key periods](#), such as when children get home, during school holidays and after 6pm

10Mbps:

- 6Mbps – HD film
- 2Mbps – catch up tv
- 1.5Mbps – video call
- 0.5Mbps - basic web browsing

## **British Chambers of Commerce**

### **Digital infrastructure investment vital to UK growth ambitions**

**Tuesday 19 July 2016**

*Commenting on the publication today of the connectivity report by the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Dr Adam Marshall, Acting Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said:*

“Many business parks, both new and existing, still do not have superfast broadband, and we fully support the government prioritising the delivery of connections to these areas.

“However, the target of a 10Mbps Universal Service Obligation as a starting point is not ambitious enough. This must be higher for business broadband, in order to reflect the pace of developments in the digital world. Digital infrastructure investment needs to be a high priority for government, as a lack of investment now will undermine future growth and will put UK firms at risk of falling behind our international competitors.

“As the report rightly points out, the current over-reliance on the existing copper access network instead of driving fibre-to-the-premises could create a hard-to-solve digital divide for business in the future.

“It is important for the government’s Digital Strategy to be published as soon as possible so businesses can review if it is fit for purpose. We see mounting evidence that businesses are suffering from poor service standards, ‘not spots’, unreliable connections and a market structure that fails to offer competition and choice. Unless firms see improvements on reliability, speed and coverage, their performance, and the productivity of the UK as a whole, will continue to be severely affected.”

## **DCMS**

### **Government plans to make sure no-one is left behind on broadband access**

**7 November 2015**

Access to fast broadband to be put on similar footing as other basic services, giving everyone a legal right to request a 10 Mbps connection by end of this Parliament.



Plans set out by government will help make sure that every home and business can have access to fast broadband by the end of this Parliament.

Speaking on Monday, Prime Minister David Cameron will talk about the government's intention to put access to broadband on a similar footing as other basic services like water and electricity, helping to cement Britain's position as the most digitised major economy in Europe.

Work is now starting on introducing a broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) with the ambition to give people the legal right to request a connection to broadband with speeds of 10 Mbps, no matter where they live.

The Prime Minister David Cameron said:

Access to the Internet shouldn't be a luxury; it should be a right – absolutely fundamental to life in 21st century Britain. That is why I'm announcing a giant leap in my digital mission for Britain. Just as our forebears effectively brought gas, electricity and water to all, we're going to bring fast broadband to every home and business that wants it. That's right: we're getting Britain – all of Britain – online, and on the way to becoming the most prosperous economy in the whole of Europe.

Fast broadband connectivity is now seen as a key service, essential not only for busy families but also for businesses and entrepreneurs across the UK. The latest data from Ofcom confirms 10 Mbps is the speed needed to meet the demands of today's typical family and many small business.

A USO will provide a 'safety net' to make sure that households and businesses can get the broadband speeds needed to do business online, access key services or stream live TV. It can be upgraded over time as technology and demand evolve. The government will be consulting on this in early 2016.

Government is already taking steps to improve broadband experience for all consumers. Our investment means more than three million homes and businesses across the UK already have access to superfast speeds (24 Mbps or better) for the first time. We are on track to reach 95 per cent by the end of 2017 – a key part of the government's long-term economic plan to bring more jobs, skills, growth and opportunities to the people of this country.

Culture Secretary John Whittingdale said:

The UK's digital landscape is being transformed – our rollout of superfast broadband is helping millions of people who would otherwise have missed out to get online. Coverage has already reached more than 83 per cent of UK homes and businesses. By next month, 3.5 million more UK homes and businesses will have access to superfast speeds – and the government's superfast programme is on track to extend that to 95% by the end of 2017.

We also want to make sure consumers have more transparency about the service they are getting. Later this year, Ofcom will release a new mobile app so that consumers will be able to check if their home Wi-Fi is working as it should be. They are also planning to release even more detailed, address-level mobile and

broadband speed data next year. This will help people make more informed decisions about things like moving home or starting a business.

*Notes for editors*

1. The current USO for Internet access is set at 28.8 Kbps. The government is set to provide universal access to speeds of at least 2 Mbps by the end of this year. A new USO of 10 Mbps would see the minimum speed increase five fold.
2. Homes and businesses can find out more about going superfast at [www.gov.uk/gosuperfast](http://www.gov.uk/gosuperfast).

## 4. Parliamentary material

### Debates

#### **Digital Economy Bill: Commons Report stage and Third Reading**

**HC Deb 28 November 2016 | Vol 617 cc1268-**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-28/debates/CF0A21DE-0B55-4A02-8B9F-824ADFDE7C02/DigitalEconomyBill>

#### **Digital Economy Bill: Commons Second Reading**

**HC Deb 13 September 2016 | Vol 614 cc 721-**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-09-13/debates/16091326000001/DigitalEconomyBill>

#### **Lords Question for Short Debate: Superfast Fibre Broadband**

**HL Deb 27 October 2016 | Vol 776 ccGC1-**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-10-27/debates/BBAEE1F8-6769-4B37-B435-D0BA1AD57418/SuperfastFibreBroadband>

#### **Westminster Hall Debate: Release of Spectrum Band**

**HC Deb 15 November 2016 | Vol 617 cc80WH-**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-15/debates/3D2FEEF4-68D4-407C-9BA5-F98675C06823/ReleaseOfSpectrumBand>

#### **Westminster Hall Debate: Broadband in Wales**

**HC Deb 6 July 2016 | Vol 612 c336WH-**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-07-06/debates/16070650000002/BroadbandInWales>

### PQs

#### [Broadband](#)

#### **Asked by: Kerr, Calum**

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate she has made of the number of premises which will be eligible for the broadband Universal Service Obligation in (a) England, (b) Wales, (c) Scotland and (d) Northern Ireland.

**Answering member: Matt Hancock | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

The independent telecoms regulator Ofcom has been commissioned to provide detailed analysis on the key factors that will help inform the design of the broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) and to publish their findings by the end of this year. Their report will identify the number of premises likely to be within the USO footprint on a UK-wide basis. They are also expected to provide a breakdown for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**HC Deb 24 November 2016 | PQ 53948**

[\*Broadband: Rural Areas\*](#)

**Asked by: Ritchie, Ms Margaret**

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of rural broadband cover in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Answering member: Matt Hancock | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

The Government is making a significant contribution to broadband provision across the UK, and the superfast broadband projects that are under way in the devolved nations will deliver superfast coverage to nearly 700,000 premises in Scotland, 650,000 in Wales and 40,000 in Northern Ireland. These form an important part of achieving 95% superfast coverage across the UK by December 2017. The project in Northern Ireland adds to the previous roll-out.

These projects will also benefit from clawback funding from suppliers as a result of take-up going above the initial expected levels, which will be available for reinvestment in additional superfast broadband coverage. New procurements are under way in each of the nations using this funding which will further increase superfast coverage.

In addition the government is introducing a Universal Service Obligation in the Digital Economy Bill, which will give the right to consumers to request a broadband service; our aim is currently to set this at 10Mbps.

**HC Deb 27 October 2016 | PQ 49956**

[\*Broadband\*](#)

**Asked by: Hendry, Drew**

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a statutory social tariff for broadband services.

**Answering member: Matt Hancock | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

We are committed to introducing a new broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) within this Parliament. The USO will give households and businesses the legal right to request a broadband connection with speeds of at least 10 Megabits, no matter where they live or work.

Ofcom are preparing advice and recommendations for Government on the design of the broadband USO, and we have asked them specifically to consider a social tariff to make sure it is affordable for all. Ofcom will report on its findings by the end of the year and we will consider them as part of our decision.

**HC Deb 27 October 2016 | PQ 49373***Broadband***Asked by: Dromey, Jack**

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how the Government plans to use regulatory powers to ensure that an adequate broadband service is provided.

**Answering member: Matt Hancock | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

The Government is creating a regulatory environment that supports the market in delivering world-class broadband services and has taken a number of steps to support this aim. As part of the Digital Economy Bill, we are introducing a broadband Universal Service Obligation to be implemented by 2020. This will give everyone the legal right to broadband at a minimum speed of 10 Mbps.

We are reforming the Electronic Communications Code to cut costs and simplify the process of building mobile and broadband infrastructure on private land. We are making permanent the relaxations in the rules for deploying fixed broadband infrastructure in all areas except Sites of Special Scientific Interest that we introduced in 2013. This will also cut deployment costs for communications providers and speed up broadband roll-out. Similar planning relaxations are being made in relation to the deployment of mobile infrastructure.

As of 31 July this year, the Communications (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations 2016 gave rights to Communications Providers to share passive infrastructure across utility, transport and communications sectors which is designed to reduce the cost of broadband deployment.

In addition, building regulations have also been amended to introduce a requirement from January 2017 for all new buildings, and major renovations, to include in-building physical infrastructure to support superfast broadband connectivity. The Government has also put in place industry agreements with developers for fibre connections to be made available to all new build housing.

The Government continues to review the regulatory landscape to identify further opportunities for reform.

**HC Deb 12 October 2016 | PQ 47345**

[\*Broadband\*](#)

**Asked by: Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of people in the UK who do not have access to superfast broadband.

**Answering member: Baroness Mobarik | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

We want everyone to have access to high speed broadband as part of our commitment to building a stronger, more connected economy that works for all.

Through the Government's investment of over £780 million, superfast broadband is now available to 90% of homes and businesses in the UK, compared to less than half in 2010. By the end of 2017 it will be available to 95% of homes and businesses.

But we are determined to go further, and extra funding from clawback and efficiency savings in the local broadband contracts with BT will allow this coverage to be extended.

We are also committed to introducing a Universal Service Obligation for broadband through the Digital Economy Bill. Our ambition is to set the minimum speed at 10Mbps - enough to meet the needs of a typical family and many small businesses so no-one is left behind.

**HL Deb 22 September 2016 | PQ HL1707**

[\*Broadband\*](#)

**Asked by: Farron, Tim**

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the Queen's Speech 2016, if her Department will publish detailed plans to create the right for every household to access high speed broadband.

**Answering member: Matt Hancock | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

Following the Queen's Speech, the Digital Economy Bill has been introduced which includes measures to enable the Government to implement and review a new broadband Universal Service Obligation. We have asked Ofcom to undertake a detailed technical analysis on a range of factors that will impact on the design of the USO. Once we have considered Ofcom's report, we will consult on the detailed specifications for the USO which will be set in secondary legislation once the Bill has received Royal Assent.

**HC Deb 12 September 2016 | PQ 44980**

[Broadband: Scotland](#)**Asked by: Bardell, Hannah**

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions she has had with Ministers of the Scottish Government on the application of the Universal Service Obligation for broadband in Scotland.

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether the proposed Universal Service Obligation for broadband will apply in Scotland.

**Answering member: Matt Hancock | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

Telecoms, including the Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) is a reserved matter and applies throughout the UK. We have regular discussions with the Scottish Government on a wide range of issues, and I am grateful for their responses to the Government's USO consultation and more recently to Ofcom's Call for Inputs on the design of the USO.

**HC Deb 12 Sep 2016 | PQ 44671; PQ 44670**

[Topical Questions](#)**Asked by: Scott Mann**

Does my right hon. Friend agree that superfast broadband should be a statutory function in all new build properties?

**Answering member: The Minister for Digital and Culture (Matt Hancock) | Department: Culture, Media and Sport**

We are introducing the universal service obligation to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from high-quality superfast broadband when that is possible, and fast broadband when necessary. Broadband is no longer merely a "nice to have"; it is vital to participation in modern society, and we want to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to acquire it.

**HC Deb 08 September 2016 | Vol 614 c453**

[Broadband](#)**Asked by: Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK's future position in the league table of broadband targets in the EU and OECD countries if a target of 10 megabits per second were achieved by 2020.

**Answering member: Baroness Neville-Rolfe | Department:  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

It is too early to assess what the impact of the proposed 10 megabit Universal Service Obligation (USO) will have on the UK's future position in EU and OECD broadband league tables. The contracts we have put in place with Openreach mean that the more homes and businesses that sign up for superfast broadband, the more money Openreach has to return to local authorities to extend the roll out of superfast broadband further. So far, Openreach has confirmed more than £200 million of savings that can be reinvested, over and above the £1.7bn of public funding already allocated. We expect more funding to be confirmed in due course. We will be reinvesting that funding in order to extend superfast broadband to as many additional homes and businesses as possible.

**HL Deb 16 June 2016 | PQ HL478**

*Broadband*

**Asked by: Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to change the broadband target of 10 megabits per second by 2020 to a higher one, in the light of the progress made by other countries.

**Answering member: Baroness Neville-Rolfe | Department:  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

The Government's ambition for the broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) is that it should be set initially at 10 megabits per second. The rationale for the USO is to provide a 'digital safety net' to ensure that every home and business is able to access a fast broadband.

A broadband USO set at 10 megabits per second is higher than anywhere else in Europe. Spain, for example, has set their USO at 1 megabit per second, and Finland and Malta at 2 and 4 megabits per second respectively. We expect that the USO speed will need to increase over time beyond 10 megabits per second and are committed to keeping this under review to make sure that it keeps pace with consumers' needs.

**HL Deb 16 June 2016 | PQ HL477**



## 5. Useful links and further reading

DCMS *A new broadband Universal Service Obligation Statement of Intent* 11 October 2016

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/562484/USOStatementofIntentfinal11October\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562484/USOStatementofIntentfinal11October_2_.pdf)

Ofcom *Designing the broadband universal service obligation* – call for inputs closed June 2016 and summary of responses.

Ofcom has been commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to provide technical analysis and recommendations to support the design of the broadband USO. This document seeks views on the design of the broadband USO.

We will provide our final advice to Government by the end of 2016.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-1/broadband-uso-cfi>

DCMS consultation *Broadband Universal Service Obligation* closed April 2016 – consultation, summary of responses and Government response

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/broadband-universal-service-obligation>

House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee *Establishing world-class connectivity throughout the UK* HC147 2016-17 19 July 2016

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmcmds/147/147.pdf>

Responses HC714 12 October 2016

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmcmds/714/714.pdf>

European Parliament Briefing *Broadband as a universal service* April 2016

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/581977/EPRS\\_BRI\(2016\)581977\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/581977/EPRS_BRI(2016)581977_EN.pdf)

Commons Library Briefing Paper on [Superfast Broadband Coverage in the UK](#)

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06643>

Commons [Library analysis of the Digital Economy Bill](#) prior to Second Reading

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7699>

Commons Library [Committee Stage report on the Digital Economy Bill](#)

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7799>

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