



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

**Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP**  
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The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Chair, Science and Technology Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

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12 October 2020

Dear Greg,

## **TELECOMS DIVERSIFICATION**

Thank you for your letter and for your continued interest in diversity in the UK's telecoms market.

I am pleased to say that DCMS has recently announced the appointment of the Telecoms Diversification Taskforce. This is a key step forward in driving progress on our work to diversify the telecoms market. As I set out when presenting evidence to the Committee in July, the Taskforce will be instrumental in shaping our diversification strategy through the provision of independent and expert advice to the Government.

The Taskforce, which is composed of leading figures from industry and academia, is meeting regularly to bring challenge and innovation to the work being undertaken on our strategy, as well as leadership to our work going forward. Specifically, the Taskforce is providing advice on the design of targeted measures across the three strands of our strategy: securing incumbent suppliers, attracting new players, and accelerating open interface technologies. The Taskforce will ensure the strategy is bold and ambitious and faces any challenges head on and focuses on interventions that will deliver lasting change in the supply chain and is also exploring ways to develop the capability of the UK's vibrant and innovative telecoms sector.

The Taskforce is chaired by Lord Ian Livingston of Parkhead. As a former trade minister and CEO of BT, I am confident that he has the experience and leadership to ensure the Taskforce is well-equipped to support the Government in this critical endeavour. While the work of the Taskforce is in its early stages, I am sure that Lord Livingston would be open to speaking to the Committee in due course.

Further detail on the scope of the Taskforce and its full membership can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ex-bt-boss-leads-task-force-to-attract-new-vendors-to-uk-telecoms>



We remain committed to publishing our telecoms diversification strategy in the autumn alongside the Telecoms Security Bill. However, this is only the first step in the process, which will require further engagement with industry and international partners. As we refine our approach and develop concrete delivery plans I expect to provide regular updates on the Government's progress in the coming years.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to write to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Dowden', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP**  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport