



Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport

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Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair, Science and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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Dear Greg,

Thank you for your letter and for sharing some of the early conclusions and recommendations from the House of Commons Science & Technology Committee's inquiry into 'UK telecommunications infrastructure and the UK's domestic capability'. First, I would like to extend my gratitude to you and the Committee - this issue is of utmost importance and I appreciate your efforts to bring together expert insight and put forward recommendations. I look forward to the publication of the full report and reading the Committee's recommendations. Your conclusions will inform our telecommunications diversification strategy moving forward.

On the specific points you have raised, I agree with the Committee's assessment on the importance of taking forward a range of interoperable solutions, the need for interventions that are sustainable and the criticality of international partnership, in delivering successful diversification of the supply market for telecoms.

Our 5G Diversification Strategy, which I will publish on Monday to coincide with the second reading of the Telecommunications (Security) Bill, addresses all of these issues and sets out our plans to:

- set a long term vision for a competitive and healthy supply market for telecoms and the need to build an market that can foster and enable long term diversification;
- make interoperable networks the default, and promote and accelerate the development of interoperable solutions such as OpenRAN - as well as others;
- establish a National Telecommunications Laboratory that complements existing testing capabilities in the UK, noting the critical role testing facilities will play in both the maturation of emerging technologies and as a proving ground for potential entrants to the market;
- the importance of international consensus and alignment in driving effective and scalable activity that delivers diversification.

I attach a draft copy of the diversification strategy for your reference ahead of its publication. I would be grateful if you do not share this more widely until it is in the public domain. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the strategy with colleagues in debate over the coming weeks.

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