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Nick Beech
First Clerk of the Business and Trade Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

23 October 2023

Dear Nick,

RE: Three UK clarification on our progress regarding delivery of the Shared Rural Network

Many thanks for the invitation to speak to the Business and Trade Select Committee last week, where we discussed the benefits that the merger of Three UK and Vodafone UK will bring to the country.

Following our appearance, we wanted to clarify the answer given to Mark Pawsey MP on progress with the Shared Rural Network (SRN). As you will be aware, we did not give an answer on behalf of Three during the session.

The SRN programme runs to 31 January 2027, and we can confirm that Three is on track to deliver the requirement for 90% geographic coverage of the UK by then. We have already built 100 sites as part of this, with planning permission also secured on 80% of new sites that we have committed to.

Within the overall SRN programme, there is an interim objective for mobile network operators to reach 88% geographic coverage of the UK by 30 June 2024. On this interim objective, we have requested an extension from Building Digital UK and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

This extension has been necessitated by delays caused by Covid, given the SRN agreement was signed on 9 March 2020, just before the first lockdown. To reiterate, however, Three is well on track to reach the overall SRN programme deadline of 90% geographic coverage of the UK by 31 January 2027.

We do hope this information is useful and please pass on to relevant members of the committee. Do let us know if you need anything further from us, on this point or others.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lerner
General Counsel and Regulatory Affairs Director

David Hennessy
Chief Technical Officer