



# Science and Technology Committee

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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
(By e-mail)

18 May 2021

Dear Oliver,

## **Government response to the Committee's Report, *5G market diversification and wider lessons for critical and emerging technologies***

Thank you for your response to my Committee's '5G market diversification and wider lessons for critical and emerging technologies' Report.<sup>1</sup> We have read your response with interest, and look forward to the Government's response to the Telecoms Diversification Taskforce's report before the summer recess.

Following your response, there were a number of areas where we'd be grateful if you could provide some further information:

- In our Report, we recommended that the Government should publish a more detailed action plan for implementing the diversification strategy, specifically including a "breakdown of how the initial budget will be spent". Your response did not, however provide this information or commit to providing it. **We would be grateful if you could provide a breakdown of what the £250 million initially allocated to the diversification strategy will be spent on.**
- We also recommended that the Government should seek to learn from overseas experiences of telecommunications diversification and report on the lessons learned. Please can you set out **what the Government has learned from its discussions with overseas partners so far, and how can these lessons be applied in the UK's context?**
- Finally, we recommended that the Government should establish "a dedicated, standing forum for international co-operation on diversifying the telecommunications market". Your response indicated the Government's intention to build international consensus, including at the G7. **We would be grateful if you could clarify if the Government aims to use its G7 presidency to establish a specific, standing forum for international co-operation on diversifying the telecommunications market.**

I would be grateful if you could provide us with this information by Wednesday 2 June. As is usual with the Committee's correspondence, I will place this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

**Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**  
Chair

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<sup>1</sup> [Second Report](#) of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, HC 450, published 4 February 2021 and [Fifth Special Report](#) of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, HC 1377, published 29 April 2021