

Introducing the Digital Connectivity Forum

New vision and remit for expanded industry-government body

+++ EMBARGOED until 0000hrs, 29 June 2022 +++

29 June 2022: [The Digital Connectivity Forum](#) has launched today. The Forum (or DCF) brings together the biggest players in telecoms infrastructure and content creation aligned to a new vision and mission for the UK's leading advisory body to government on digital connectivity. The Forum will build upon the work of the Broadband Stakeholder Group with a refreshed identity, vision and mission to actively address the transformed connectivity value chain.

With a redefined vision to ensure the UK has an economy and society empowered by seamless digital connectivity, the Forum has been created after extensive discussion among sponsor members and non-members. In late 2021 and early 2022, the Digital Connectivity Forum Executive convened groups of network operators, equipment manufacturers, ISPs, content producers, broadcasters, business groups, government, regulators and representatives of civil society.

The result is a revamped expert body, with an expanded remit proactively to promote seamless connectivity throughout the UK. We look forward to working across the entire sector value chain and alongside government and regulators. Together with the existing focus on digital infrastructure, the new Digital Connectivity Forum will develop a distinct technology neutral work programme, concentrating on content demand and network design.

Stephanie Liston, Chair of the Digital Connectivity Forum, said:

“The last two decades have seen a dramatic transformation in the UK's digital eco-system. Consumers and businesses today enjoy a huge number of internet-enabled services delivered over a variety of networks. Working with industry, government and others we are today launching the Digital Connectivity Forum with an expanded and ambitious agenda to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities of the next 20 years.”

Alex Mather, Head of the Digital Connectivity Forum, said:

“In the 21 years since the Broadband Stakeholder Group was first formed, the UK has gone from dial-up internet to surging gigabit availability, 5G, satellite and other technologies. In 2001, getting broadband Britain up and running was the focus. Today, the ambition is seamless, universal digital connectivity, across all technologies and industry sectors. The new Digital Connectivity Forum has a crucial role in realising this greater ambition. We look forward to proactively engaging with government to advise and inform their policy decisions.”

“As the range and diversity of services delivered via the internet has ballooned, the relationship between infrastructure and content has become more central. We want to deliver a new focus on content and distribution while continuing to facilitate discussions on delivery of better infrastructure. New working groups for each will help us to address this challenge.”

NOTES

- [The Digital Connectivity Forum](#) (DCF) is the UK industry-government advisory group on digital connectivity issues. Its members collaborate, source evidence, provide expertise and make recommendations to government, regulators and industry, with the aim of developing policies which deliver seamless digital connectivity across the UK.
- The Digital Connectivity Forum is currently comprised of: BBC, BT, CityFibre, DCMS, Ericsson, Gigaclear, Giganet, Huawei, Hyperoptic, Openreach, Sky, TalkTalk, TechUK, Three, Virgin Media O2, Vodafone, Wireless Infrastructure Group.
- CBI, the Consumer Communications Panel, INCA and Ofcom are also members of the Digital Connectivity Forum Executive.
- Our refreshed vision is *“For the UK to have an economy and society empowered by seamless digital connectivity”*.
- Our new mission is *“to be the primary advisory body on the provision of seamless connectivity”*.
- Our new purposes are:
 - *We bring together the digital connectivity value chain in an expert forum.*
 - *We collaborate, source evidence, provide expertise and make recommendations to government, regulators and industry.*
 - *We support the development of policies which deliver digital connectivity to empower positive societal change and economic growth across the UK.*
- The Broadband Stakeholder Group (predecessor to the Digital Connectivity Forum) was formed in 2001. It convened substantial industry and government dialogue on the roll-out of faster, higher capacity, more innovative connectivity services in the UK. It helped set world-leading standards for the open internet and worked with all sides to break down barriers in the deployment of mobile and fixed infrastructure.
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