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Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The FTIR: progress on 5G and full fibre delivery, four years on

- **techUK reviews progress of the government's Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR)**

- **5G and full fibre rollout identified as key factors to achieve nationwide economic growth**

London, 11 October 2022: If government is looking to kickstart its Growth Plan, it must prioritise delivering on the ambitions for the rollout, and take-up, of full fibre and 5G. That is the message techUK's telecoms members have shared in a new report examining the impact of the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR), published four years ago.

The Review set in place a policy framework that was highly effective in unleashing private investment for the fibre sector, with £33.2 billion helping to drive coverage from 6% to 41% of premises passed today. If government wants to focus on economic growth and innovation, reducing the friction for the remaining fibre rollout should be a major priority, along with boosting the rate of take-up of fibre services. techUK concludes that "the right framework is in place – it is now time to deliver".

For 5G, the FTIR's impact was mixed. Positively, the UK mobile sector has made significant progress on rolling out 5G. But to fully realise the benefits of this advanced communications technology and learn the lessons of publicly funded programmes like 5G Testbeds and Trials, government must do more. techUK offers suggestions that the forthcoming Wireless Infrastructure Strategy should take to unlock investment and facilitate the rollout of non-standalone 5G.

While we acknowledge that the deployment of 5G and fibre technologies is continuing at pace, techUK outlines key recommendations to ensure the ongoing delivery, including:

- DCMS and the Home Office should introduce a specific visa targeted at telecoms workers to help support infrastructure businesses investing in growth.
- The Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill will be critical to accelerating the rollout of fibre and 5G, it must pass as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

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- DCMS and the Department for Transport should redouble efforts to introduce the flexi permits regime so that it can be activated at the earliest opportunity.
- A government planning regime that genuinely underpins the emerging mobile infrastructure requirements of the future, including network densification and accelerated deployment models.
- Government must also identify further public sector use cases for 5G and fibre solutions to boost the transition to a digital-first government, unlock smarter procurement; and encourage take-up across the private sector.

Matthew Evans, Director for Markets, techUK said:
"It's great to see the progress made by the UK's telecoms sector since the FTIR was published in 2018 – there has been positive progress in the face of significant challenges, and broadly it was the right framework.

"But in analysing the FTIR's recommendations, our members have found that more is to be done. Barriers persist, and techUK looks forward to working with both government and Ofcom on smoothing the friction that remains for rolling out fibre and full 5G."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

[techUK's Telecoms programme](#)

About techUK

techUK is the technology trade association that brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve.

With over 850 members (the majority of which are SMEs) across the UK, techUK creates a network for innovation and collaboration across business, government and stakeholders to provide a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet.

By providing expertise and insight, we support members, partners and stakeholders as they prepare the UK for what comes next in a constantly changing world.