

**All-Party Parliamentary Group for Broadband and Digital Communication
Meeting Minutes: AGM; election of officers and general discussion
21/04/2021**

Opening

The meeting of the APPG for Broadband and Digital Communication was called to order at 13:50 on 21/04/2021 by Selaine Saxby MP. The AGM was not quorate due to urgent matters in the House. The AGM and election of officers was therefore postponed to a future date, determined after the meeting to be Monday 12 May, 9am.

Topics for future events and activity

- techUK (secretariat for the APPG represented by Matt Evans and Sophie James) outlined the proposed topics for the APPG in 2021:
 - **Levelling up agenda** and the benefits of next generation connectivity for the UK's nations and regions with Ericsson, Gigaclear and Onward ([more info](#))
 - **Migration to All-IP/PSTN switch off**: The PSTN is due to be switched off by 2025, with consumers migrated to new services; this event will help MPs learn and understand the various migration challenges and how it all relates to the rollout of full fibre; Julie Elliott, Labour MP for Sunderland Central, said that this was a significant issue and one not being addressed by the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee;
 - **5G networks and enterprise use cases**, such as healthcare and agriculture
 - **Busting barriers to deployment**: Julie Elliott MP raised the issue of black spots for connectivity as an issue in urban environments as well as rural and said that this issue could be raised at the event on barriers to deployment; Jonas Helyar from Dr Ben Spencer MP's office raised that Queens Road in Weybridge has very slow speeds
 - **Telecoms supply chain diversification** and the security of our networks
 - **The skills gap in the telecoms sector**: concern that there may be a significant shortage of engineers to build UK's gigabit-capable networks
 - **Connectivity for road and rail corridors**
 - **Connectivity tech Q&A with industry**: A chance for MPs, Peers, and Parliamentary Staff to learn more about broadband, mobile, and other connectivity technologies; Myth-busting and explanation of key terms, deployment scenarios, benefits to end-users — information to be shared directly with Dr Ben Spencer's office
 - **Take-up of gigabit-capable broadband**: Jonathan Swarbrick from CityFibre suggested this topic, relating to the forthcoming GigaTAG report on how best to encourage take up of gigabit services by consumers and businesses

Adjournment

The AGM and election of officers for the APPG for Broadband and Digital Communication will take place on Monday 12 May, 09:00-09:15 on Zoom. The next public event will take place on Wednesday 19 May, 14:00-15:00, on the [Levelling up agenda](#).



Please follow the APPG on Twitter here: <https://twitter.com/AppgDigicomms>. Meeting was adjourned at 14:25 by Selaine Saxby MP.



Apologies

Julian Knight	MP
Stephen Timms	MP
Owen Paterson	MP

Attendees

Name	Company
Selaine Saxby (Chair)	MP
William Frost	Office of Selaine Saxby, MP
Henrietta Freeman Owen	Office of Selaine Saxby, MP
Jonas Helyar	Office of Dr. Ben Spencer, MP
Julie Elliot	MP
Cherilyn Mackrory	MP
Lucie Smith	Digital Mobile Spectrum Ltd. (DMSL)
Gareth Alston	OneWeb
Sophie James	techUK
Matthew Evans	techUK
Jo O'Riordan	techUK
Richard Wilson	techUK
Adrien Sella	techUK
Julia Ofori-Addo	techUK
Mike Knuckey	Office of Mel Stride MP
James Legge	Countryside Alliance
Jonathan Swarbrick	CityFibre