

Anthony Browne MP
House of Commons
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Dear Anthony Browne MP

The Shared Rural Network and South Cambridgeshire

We want to thank you for your letter of 28th September following our meeting earlier that month, and which outlined the position of South Cambridgeshire within the life sciences sector. We note and welcome your views on the importance of good mobile coverage and the impacts of a poor mobile signal.

We would also like to reiterate that the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) submitted their initial radio plans to Ofcom for the Shared Rural Network on 31st July as per licence obligations. These plans indicate the best locations for mobile masts to deliver the coverage improvements we have committed to deliver as part of the SRN programme. We are currently awaiting the response from the regulator, but it is important to note that these plans will be subject to further change as the SRN programme progresses.

Following the agreement of the initial radio plans, each MNO will start their Partial Not Spot rollout, that is improvements in areas where one or more but not all mobile operators currently provide 4G coverage. The SRN rollout in Total Not Spot areas, where there is no 4G coverage from any mobile operator, cannot begin until public funding is approved.

The Shared Rural Network will ultimately extend reliable 4G mobile broadband coverage to 95% of the UK's geographic landmass. It is backed by £530 million of industry funding and £500 million from the UK Government.

In addition, MNOs continue to invest in their existing networks

As I am sure you can sympathise I am unable to provide further detail on the Shared Rural Network in your area until after the regulator has responded to the initial radio plans submitted earlier this year. In the meantime, I will certainly feed in your requests outlined in your letter to the MNOs. Further, once we have additional detail to provide, I will be happy to schedule an update meeting and hope that you will be willing to allow my office to organise this in due course

Yours faithfully



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