



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Jeremy,

**Mobile Phone Roaming in Rural Areas**

A lack of coordination between the network providers has left many rural areas covered by some but not all of the networks. This is hampering economic, educational and leisure opportunities for residents in rural areas and remains a significant brake on growth for the local, regional and national economy. The introduction of roaming between networks will vastly increase the operational coverage for many of our constituents.

The DCMS consultation on the Statement of Strategic Priorities for telecommunications, the management of radio spectrum and postal services calls on Ofcom to fully consider the costs and benefits of roaming in rural areas. We the cosignatories of this letter are members representing rural constituencies and we fully agree with item 31 on page 19:

*“Roaming in rural areas also has the potential to improve consumer choice and address partial not-spots (where one or more operators are present, but all four are not). Ofcom should fully consider the costs and benefits of achieving this outcome, and maintain the option of requiring roaming by including appropriate provisions when granting rights of use for spectrum.”*

Ofcom’s position on this in their document, *Further options for improving mobile coverage*, agrees that it would improve coverage and that the surest way to deliver this is with the “co-operation of operators”.

Please could you do all that you can to ensure that effective roaming in rural areas is made a requirement of the network providers.

Yours ever,

Kevin Hollinrake MP  
Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP  
Sir Peter Bottomley MP  
Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP  
Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP  
Michael Tomlinson MP

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP  
Rt Hon Dame Caroline Spelman MP  
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP  
Rt Hon Dame Cheryl Gillan MP  
Pauline Latham OBE MP  
John Lamont MP

Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP  
Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP  
The Lord Mendelsohn  
Sir David Amess MP  
Tom Tugendhat MBE MP  
Daniel Kawczynski MP

Antoinette Sandbach MP  
Dr Lisa Cameron MP  
Kirstene Hair MP  
Michael Fabricant MP  
Mark Prisk MP  
Catherine West MP  
Heidi Allen MP  
Helen Whately MP  
Gerald Jones MP  
Sarah Champion MP  
Marty Day MP  
Martin Whitfield MP  
Julian Sturdy MP  
Steve Double MP  
Ben Lake MP  
Neil O'Brien MP  
Scott Mann MP  
Helen Hayes MP  
Rosie Cooper MP  
Tracy Brabin MP

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP  
Gillian Keegan MP  
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP  
Victoria Prentis MP  
Gareth Thomas MP  
Colin Clark MP  
Robert Courts MP  
Mark Garnier MP  
David Warburton MP  
Tim Loughton MP  
Andrew Selous MP  
Alex Sobel MP  
Rachel Maclean MP  
Bill Grant MP  
Tim Farron MP  
Barry Sheerman MP  
Nigel Evans MP  
Kevin Barron MP  
Brendan O'Hara MP

Stuart McDonald MP  
Dan Jarvis MP  
Nic Dakin MP  
Dr David Drew MP  
Douglas Ross MP  
Peter Aldous MP  
Glyn Davies MP  
Martin Vickers MP  
Jeremy Lefroy MP  
Dr Sarah Wollaston MP  
Maria Caulfield MP  
John Grogan MP  
Stephen Kerr MP  
David Duguid MP  
Giles Watling MP  
Damien Moore MP  
Andrew Griffiths MP  
Mark Menzies MP  
Charlie Elphicke MP