



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st September 2015

Ed Vaizey Esq MP
Minister of State
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Ed,

Universal Service Obligation for Broadband

Further to my written questions on this topic, I am writing to ask the Government to introduce a universal service obligation for broadband.

Despite the huge technological advances we have witnessed in recent years, some communities, mostly in rural areas such as in my own constituency, remain in 'e-poverty' without access to broadband or a decent speed of service.

What has struck me is the huge disparity in service there can be even from village to village, with some areas in my constituency enjoying superfast speeds, whilst others have a barely-workable service. For those in the latter category, the effect is widespread. Small communities can feel incredibly isolated, businesses find they are hampered, children struggle with homework.

This disparity of service is acceptable, and I believe the Government should introduce a universal service obligation, setting a minimum speed requirement, in order that all my constituents are able to take advantage of new technologies and keep pace with the rest of the UK.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie

Member of Parliament for Berwick-upon-Tweed

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