



Section 6

Conclusion

Digital Britain: from Interim to Final Report

For Digital Britain, the measurable goals are that by 2012 we should aspire to have:

- Universal Participation in the broadband world.
- Highly capable and robust networks.
- A world leading position in the Communications and Creative Industries.
- High quality digital delivery of essential Public Services.

There are many measures that can capture how well we will measure up to this ambition; we will elaborate these in the final Report. But, there are five key measures:

- a. **Achievement of universal connectivity:** through delivery of a universal service commitment and world-leading participation rates;
- b. **A set of digital networks (wired and wireless):** that are delivering next generation access services to businesses and homes;
- c. **A digital economy:** that has become one of the leading destinations for inward investment in the digital and knowledge economy;
- d. **Compelling programmes and online content:** that domestic audiences value; and whose quality and innovation is recognised and generates value internationally;
- e. **Public service transactions:** delivered in the majority by digital means, giving easier access, greater choice and significantly lower cost for the public, as users and taxpayers.

This document marks completion of the first phase of work in the Digital Britain project. We have carried out an in-depth study of the sector and the policy issues surrounding it. This has had three components:



- a. **Research:** original research has been commissioned to provide a study of available market data, and an audit of consumer research has been completed on existing digital communications (these documents have been placed on www.culture.gov.uk). Additionally, we have carried out a cross-check of other existing research.
- b. **Evidence and Consultation:** At the start of the project, we engaged all major stakeholders, including the commercial players in the sector (from network operators to content providers), consumer groups, regional development agencies, trade associations, parliamentarians and others, advising them about the project and inviting their participation. Since then, we have had hundreds of discussions with over 50 organisations and received submissions from many organisations.
- c. **Analysis.** The policy making process has been informed by steps one and two above. We have also been guided by the Expert Steering Board, which has met weekly at venues hosted by stakeholders, at which we have combined meetings of the Steering Board with presentations of evidence from a number of stakeholders.

February to May: Implementation Responses

The 22 recommendations in this report fall into four categories:

Decisions: where we have outlined specific recommendations and invite discussion as to how to implement them.

Legislative/Regulatory Reform: some of which will be the product of formal Government consultation on a separate timescale. Others where we will invite responses on how either new legislation or amended regulation should be constructed, and ideas for viable alternatives to regulation or legislation.

Detailed Analysis: where we have identified the need for specific and detailed analysis to establish working methods and firmer conclusions.

Initial Assessment: where we have set out initial assessments and invite further discussion.

Interested parties will be interested to know how and when they can input into the Digital Britain Report. They should treat this Interim Report as a formal request for input on implementation and execution. There will be four critical dates.

Firstly, we welcome feedback and comments on this interim report, before 12th March 2009.

Secondly, in April a Digital Britain Summit, an open event on the model of the Technology Entertainment and Design (TED) symposia, an event open to all interested parties to ensure that the process has engagement and inspiration as well as analysis.

Thirdly, focused Digital Britain events in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in April and May.

Finally, the publication of the Final Digital Britain Report which will take place in the early summer.



Organisations or individuals interested in joining the discussion should register their interest at digitalbritain@berr.gsi.gov.uk. The Digital Britain team will follow up such expressions of interest.

