Welsh Government
Consultation Document

Next Generation Access Broadband – Public Consultation

Date of issue: 13 June 2017
Action required: Responses by 13 July 2017

Mae’r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.
Overview

The purpose of this Open Market Review (OMR) and Public Consultation is to confirm the premises in Wales which do not have Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure delivering at least 30Mbps, or where there are no plans to provide such infrastructure over the next three years.

This process enables telecommunications companies and all other interested stakeholders to provide information on their plans and to comment on the mapping of black / grey / and white premises based on that information.

The postcode and premises reference dataset for this OMR was extracted from Ordnance Survey Address Base Premium (Epoch 45 released 17th November 2016). This dataset was subject to an extensive data cleansing exercise by the Welsh Government to remove premise classifications which were believed unlikely to represent end-points eligible for NGA service – for example: wind turbines, bus shelters, and aqueducts. Following this data cleansing a total of 315,825 premises were removed from the OMR dataset, however these premises are included within the NGA interactive map as ‘filtered premises’.

Therefore, in addition to this Public Consultation confirming the premises in Wales which no not have access to NGA, the Welsh Government is also requesting non-broadband infrastructure providers review the ‘filtered premises’ within the interactive map to ensure none of these premises are actual end-points which will require an NGA broadband service or if there are any premises that have been included that should not. Any discrepancies regarding the ‘filtered premises’ should be reported to the Welsh Government as outlined in Section 8. The premise classification will then be amended accordingly.

Instructions and guidance on how to review the ‘filtered premises’ within the NGA interactive map are provided in Annex B.

This Public Consultation exercise will be used to improve the premises information held on all residential, commercial, and public sector address points across Wales and will inform a subsequent procurement by the Welsh Government to address the white premises identified via the OMR process. The Welsh Government is aiming to extend the availability of superfast broadband across Wales.
How to respond

Please email OMR@wales.gsi.gov.uk marked “Welsh Government Public Consultation Response” as described in Section 8.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

An interactive map – showing black, grey and white premises and postcodes, resulting from the initial OMR analysis, can be found at:

http://lle.gov.wales/map/ngaomr2017

A dataset of postcodes in Wales, showing the number of eligible premises will also be made available on the consultation portal.

In addition, a full dataset of Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRN's) within Wales will also be made available to those registering to respond to this Public Consultation, and upon signing the related licensing usage terms as outlined in Annex A.

Contact details

If you have any questions about this State Aid Open Market Review process, please contact the OMR team by email at:

OMR@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used.

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when
you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone’s name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.
Public Consultation
Superfast Cymru

A new procurement to further extend coverage of Next Generation Access (NGA) Broadband across Wales.

1. Introduction and Background

The Superfast Cymru project is striving to extend the availability of NGA broadband infrastructure across Wales and aims to provide 690,000 premises in Wales with superfast broadband with download speeds of at least 30Mbps, and with further premises benefitting from over 24Mbps. Rollout of the Superfast Cymru project will be completed by December 2017 and is set to transform the broadband landscape in Wales and to promote economic growth and sustainable jobs across the region.

The Welsh Government conducted its first Open Market Review (OMR) and public consultation in June 2011. Following this OMR and subsequent procurement process, the Superfast Cymru contract to deliver superfast broadband to a defined intervention area was awarded to BT on 19th July 2012 with State Aid approved public funding of £205m. Following its most recent public consultation between 3rd June and 3rd July 2014, the Welsh Government extended the contract with BT to cover a further defined intervention area with State Aid approved public funding of £19.4m.

The c. £225m of funding allocated to date aims to facilitate the delivery of superfast broadband coverage to 690,000 premises within the Intervention Area by December 2017 and in line with the UK Government’s targets, the Welsh Government is seeking to substantially increase superfast coverage by the end of 2020.

To achieve this, Welsh Government intends to procure further coverage of NGA broadband infrastructure (capable of delivering download speeds of at least 30 Mbps) in areas within its Programme Area where such broadband is currently unavailable. Geographically, Superfast Cymru covers all postcodes and associated premises within the boundary of Wales.

The Welsh Government therefore intends to conduct a further Open procurement or a Competitive Procedure with Negotiation in respect of the remaining premises across Wales without NGA broadband infrastructure (known as “white NGA”), which comprises of 15,763 postcodes, equating to 98,145 premises.

BDUK received approval on 26 May 2016 from the European Commission on its new National Broadband Scheme for the United Kingdom (referred to hereafter as the 2016 NBS). The Welsh
Government intends to conduct this further procurement under the 2016 NBS.

The purpose of this Public Consultation is to confirm areas which do not have NGA broadband infrastructure (delivering at least 30Mbps), or where there are no plans to provide such infrastructure over the next three years. This is to enable all interested stakeholders – the public, businesses and telecommunication providers the option to comment on the proposed white NGA areas (both premises and postcodes) before further funding for coverage is committed.

The Welsh Government will then submit its final proposal for the NGA white areas, taking account of the outcome of this public consultation, to BDUK’s National Competence Centre for clearance and approval.

In addition to this, the Public Consultation exercise will be used to improve the premises information held on all residential, commercial, and public sector address points across Wales by requesting non-broadband infrastructure providers review the ‘filtered premises’ within the NGA interactive map.

2. Market Engagement and Analysis of Existing Coverage

In preparation for this procurement, the Welsh Government conducted a new OMR between 5th January 2017 and 3rd February 2017 to establish existing and planned (within the next 3 years) coverage of broadband infrastructure across Wales. This included both commercial coverage by existing and prospective NGA broadband infrastructure providers and coverage procured under the Welsh Government’s existing contracts with BT.

The Welsh Government contacted all known broadband infrastructure operators within the Programme Area and other providers known to have (or potentially having) plans to deploy new networks across the UK with a formal request for information. The OMR was also publicised through a notification on the Welsh Government’s website:

https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/next-generation-access-broadband-open-market-review

Operators were requested to provide information on their existing and planned NGA broadband infrastructure (capable of delivering download speeds of at least 30 Mbps), and to provide detail of their coverage at a premises level so as to enable greater granularity of mapping.

This information, together with the Welsh Government’s own data sources, has been used to define the proposed intervention area for the forthcoming procurement.

This public consultation sets out that proposed intervention area, so as to enable all interested stakeholders (including the public, businesses,
internet service providers and broadband infrastructure operators) to comment on the proposals. In particular, this provides an opportunity for broadband infrastructure operators to review the Welsh Government’s mapping to ensure that it correctly represents the information provided by them in the course of the OMR.

In addition, the Public Consultation exercise will be used to improve the premises information held on all residential, commercial, and public sector address points across Wales by requesting non-broadband infrastructure providers review the ‘filtered premises’ within the NGA interactive map.

All responses to the public consultation will be carefully considered and where necessary will be incorporated into the final map of the intervention area. The final intervention area maps and a summary report confirming details of the changes made to the proposed intervention area will be published on the Welsh Government’s website shortly after the close of the consultation period. Where responses to the consultation are received, the Welsh Government will respond to these and provide an explanation of how the information submitted has been treated. The finalised intervention area will then be submitted to BDUK’s National Competence Centre (NCC) for approval against the State Aid Framework.

3. State Aid Framework and Rules

This section provides a brief introduction to the State Aid Framework for the purpose of informing responses to the public consultation. Respondents may wish to obtain their own professional/legal advice on the application of the State Aid Framework and rules that relate to this proposal.

The European Commission has published ‘EU Guidelines for the application of State Aid rules in relation to the rapid deployment of broadband networks’ (2013/C 25/01). These guidelines summarise the principles of the Commission’s policy in applying the State Aid rules of the Treaty to measures that support the deployment of broadband networks, and seek to ensure that State Aid schemes for broadband are well-designed so that they target market failures and minimise negative effects on competition.

The guidelines require public interventions to be targeted so as to limit the risk of crowding out private investments, of altering commercial investment incentives and ultimately of distorting competition.

Planned public interventions can seek State Aid approval directly from the Commission, or (as is the case with this proposal) seek clearance under a national scheme which has been pre-approved by the Commission.

Projects under the 2016 NBS will need to demonstrate their State Aid compliance (in accordance with the terms of the scheme) in order to receive clearance from BDUK’s National Competence Centre.

The Commission’s guidelines distinguish between two types of broadband networks, namely basic broadband and NGA networks.

Basic broadband networks are generally those based on currently widely-deployed technologies such as fixed wired telephony networks (using ADSL/ADSL2+ technologies), non-enhanced cable TV networks (eg DOCSIS 2.0), mobile networks (2G/3G (UMTS)), some fixed wireless access (FWA) networks, and satellite networks.

NGA networks rely wholly or partly on optical elements (optical fibre) and are capable of delivering an enhanced broadband capability compared to existing basic broadband networks. Current qualifying NGA technologies are fibre-based networks (FTTx), advanced upgraded cable networks (DOCSIS 3.0) and certain advanced wireless access networks capable of delivering reliable high speeds.

Guidance on the characteristics of qualifying NGA technologies is available from BDUK.\(^2\)

The Commission’s guidelines also require that public intervention should be able to ensure a ‘step change’ in broadband availability. This is demonstrated by:

- Significant new investments in the broadband network;
- The new infrastructure brings significant new capabilities to the market in terms of broadband service availability and capacity, speeds and competition\(^3\);

The ‘step change’ in broadband availability shall be compared to that of existing as well as concretely planned networks.

The Commission’s guidelines also distinguish between geographic areas on the basis of their existing or planned broadband infrastructure:

- ‘White’ areas are those in which there is no qualifying broadband infrastructure and none is likely to be developed within 3 years;
- ‘Grey’ areas are those where only one network is present or is to be deployed within the coming 3 years; and

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\(^3\) See Footnote 66 of the Commission’s Guidelines - this sets out that the subsidised network should be pro-competitive (i.e. allow for effective access at different levels of the infrastructure).
• ‘Black’ areas are those where at least two networks of different operators exist or will be deployed in the coming 3 years.

This geographic mapping of White/Grey/Black areas is carried out separately in relation to basic broadband and NGA networks. NGA networks are mapped on the basis that, amongst other things, they have substantially higher upload speeds (compared to basic broadband networks)\(^4\) and are able to deliver broadband services at an access (download) speed of more than 30Mbps.

Public intervention can only take place in white NGA areas under the 2016 NBS. White NGA areas are those in which there are no NGA networks and none is likely to be developed within the next 3 years.

4. Proposed Intervention

Premises level information was provided by some telecommunication providers during the OMR process but not all. Therefore, in the absence of consistent premises level data for broadband infrastructure across Wales the Welsh Government has mapped where possible at UPRN\(^5\) (Unique Property Reference Number) premises level or, where this information was not available then areas have been mapped at postcode level. For the NGA mapping exercise both premises level and postcode level was defined using the following criteria.

For basic broadband:

- A postcode is turned grey if there is only one broadband infrastructure operator providing basic broadband services (with speeds greater than 2 Mbps) to that postcode.

- A postcode is turned black if there are at least two broadband infrastructure operators providing basic broadband services (with speeds greater than 2Mbps) to that postcode.

- All other postcodes remain white.

The Welsh Government is delivering a Universal Service Commitment to provide access to basic broadband speeds of at least 10Mbps under its Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) scheme. This scheme, which compliments the Superfast Cymru programme provides a subsidy of up to £400 to qualifying applicants for 10Mbps and 20Mbps broadband packages. These connections can be made from a range of private sector wireless broadband providers or if not available a satellite

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\(^4\) Substantially higher upload speeds means at least a doubling of the maximum upload speed available on current generation access network(s) for given ‘up to’ packages available on basic broadband networks in the relevant intervention area.

\(^5\) A Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) is a unique alphanumeric identifier for every spatial address in Great Britain which is found in Ordnance Survey Address products. The UPRN provides a comprehensive and consistent identifier throughout a property’s life cycle from planning permission through to demolition.
connection can be made. The scheme intends to run until March 2018. More information on Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) can be found via the Welsh Government website:

http://beta.gov.wales/go-superfast

Therefore, based on the fact that all premises across Wales can access as a minimum a basic broadband connection via the ABC scheme, the whole geographic area has been marked as grey in Figure 1 (Annex A) and represents a combined grey and/or black postcode status.

For NGA:

When determining the status of NGA services, by default the Welsh Government used UPRN premises level information when received from telecommunication providers. However, where postcode level only information was provided then the Welsh Government deemed the whole postcode area to be covered by NGA services.

With regard to premises level data:

- A premise is turned grey if there is only one broadband infrastructure operator providing NGA services (with speeds greater than 30Mbps) to that postcode.
- A premise is turned black if there are at least two broadband infrastructure operators providing NGA services (with speeds greater than 30Mbps) to that postcode.
- All other premises remain white.

With regard to postcode level data:

- A postcode is turned grey if there is only one broadband infrastructure operator providing NGA services (with speeds greater than 30Mbps) to that postcode.
- A postcode is turned black if there are at least two broadband infrastructure operators providing NGA services (with speeds greater than 30Mbps) to that postcode.
- A postcode is also turned black if there is one postcode provider and one or more premises providers.
- All other postcodes remain white (Total ABP OMR dataset, minus filtered premises, minus exclusion area (premises and postcodes), minus NGA black and grey premises and postcodes. This also includes Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) served premises and those business across Wales which have applied for the Ultrafast Connectivity
Voucher Scheme and have therefore been interpreted as a service provider.

In addition, the proposed intervention area includes a number of “out of scope” regions (coloured yellow on the map). These out of scope areas include Cardiff, Swansea and Newport which have been excluded from any future intervention funding.

The proposed intervention area also includes a number of “under review” areas (coloured teal on the map). These areas have been indicated by broadband infrastructure providers to have planned commercial coverage for NGA broadband (within the next 3 years) however at present these NGA upgrades have not been completed. These areas will be subject to continued monitoring and verification of supplier plans within the 3 year period by the Welsh Government and in the event that these commercial plans fall away these premises will be mapped as white NGA and form part of the proposed intervention area and eligible for intervention via this aid measure.

The proposed intervention area also includes several “out of scope - under review” areas (coloured dark yellow on the map). These are areas as per the out of scope definition however through the course of the OMR process the supplier(s) plans and/or network has been reported as being ‘at risk’ of being able to deliver NGA services to premises. Therefore, these areas will be subject to continued monitoring of the supplier(s) plans and/or network. In the event these plans fall away and/or the network ceases to operate these premises will be mapped as white NGA and form part of the proposed intervention area.

Finally, the intervention area also has a number of “filtered premises” which are those premises which have been removed from the premises data set because they appear to relate to sites that are not eligible endpoint for NGA delivery or are unsuitable for NGA supply (e.g. aqueduct, pond etc.)

The mapping analysis of existing and planned coverage (within the next 3 years) has identified significant remaining ‘white NGA’ areas. The outcome of the OMR is summarised in the table below in terms of NGA ‘White’, ‘Grey’, ‘Black’, ‘under review’, ‘out of scope’, ‘out of scope – under review’ and ‘filtered’ premises.

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6 The NBS primary aim is to improve the availability of broadband across the UK in particular across rural and isolated areas.

7 For reference the total number of postcodes corresponding to the all the premises across Wales is 91,132 (including filtered premises). The total number of postcodes corresponding to only the eligible NGA end delivery points i.e. not including the filtered premises is 88,692.
The Welsh Government intends to procure coverage to target the remaining ‘white NGA’ areas across Wales which consist of 15,763 white postcodes, equating to 98,145 white premises as follows:

- By conducting a new procurement under the 2016 NBS (and in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015)

As noted above, if commercial plans fall away in the ‘under review’ and/or ‘out of scope/under review’ areas then these will be considered as eligible for intervention and considered as ‘white NGA’ areas.

Where possible, the Welsh Government intends to make coverage information available at a premises level within the identified white postcode areas to bidders to ensure that bids can target those premises without NGA broadband coverage efficiently. This will include information at a premises level received in response to this consultation.

It should be noted that whilst this consultation includes mapping of basic broadband coverage, the procurement will not deploy basic broadband technologies. The intention is to provide bidders with details of all the areas where there is basic broadband coverage so as to ensure, so far as possible, that these areas are only overbuilt by NGA broadband infrastructure where the premises will receive over 30Mbps or at least a doubling of speeds, in accordance with the requirements of the 2016 NBS. Where doubling is not possible, the supplier will be obliged to demonstrate that the design is optimised to limit the overbuild of existing basic broadband networks with speeds that are below 30Mbps.

5. New Procurement

The Welsh Government commenced extensive market engagement and warming in December 2016, held a ‘Bidder Information Day’ on the 14th December 2016 and a subsequent ‘Bidder Information Day’ on the 6th April 2017. At these Bidder Information Days, the Welsh Government has issued its outline requirements, to enable feedback from potential bidders to be taken into account in the design of the scheme, and in order to understand the capacity and capability of the market. The Welsh Government has also sought specific feedback relating to questions about proposed delivery.
models, lotting structures and opportunities that would make the requirement attractive to the market.

The Welsh Government has also considered the ability of the private sector to deliver the project, available resources, and its own capacity and capability to develop its approach to intervention. As of the end of May 2017, no approaches have been made from the private sector and therefore the Welsh Government has decided that the project will use an investment gap funding approach to procure an infrastructure provider/providers.

The procurement will be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and EU Public Procurement Directives. The tender is most likely to utilise either the Open Procedure or the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation and will be conducted in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, as required by the 2016 NBS.

The procurement will be designed to meet the specific requirements of the 2016 NBS, which recognises the need to optimise the number and quality of bidders, in particular by reducing the hurdles to participation in procurements by smaller suppliers and encouraging collaboration between larger and smaller operators so that a range of appropriate solutions can be brought forward. This was also a key objective of the market engagement exercise.

When the procurement is launched, the white areas are likely to be sub-divided into a number of lots or areas to promote this. However, the Welsh Government does not discount the possibility that some or all of these lots may be aggregated if this represents the most economically advantageous approach to meeting the requirements set out in its Invitation to Tender.

The Welsh Government’s priority will be to ensure that the available public funding is used most effectively by ensuring coverage of premises currently getting relatively slow broadband speeds (<24). However, areas with higher speeds may be targeted, subject to the need to provide a ‘step change’ in broadband capability (as outlined above).

The Welsh Government has been allocated up to £200m additional public funding which includes contributions from the Welsh Government, BDUK, the EU and Local Authorities which can be committed via the forthcoming procurement.

6. Timescales

This consultation will be open until 17:00 on the 13th July 2017.

Once the consultation is closed and the Welsh Government has finalised the intervention areas, an Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be issued via the Welsh Government’s procurement portal to suppliers to bid for the opportunity to deliver extended NGA broadband coverage during September 2017. The intention is to award a contract during 2017. The related extended deployment plans for broadband infrastructure should begin by 2018.
7. State Aid Public Consultation

The EU Guidelines (at paragraph 78) and the 2016 NBS set out the requirements to hold a public consultation in order to validate the intervention area mapping by allowing all interested stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the planned aid measure.

The purpose of this document is to fulfil those requirements by publishing a description of the proposed aid measure, and seeking feedback from all interested stakeholders. The mapping for basic and NGA broadband are shown in the attached maps.

The attached map of the NGA broadband Intervention Area relies on the definitions of white, grey and black areas, as set out in the EU Guidelines (and as summarised above). The Welsh Government will only target the areas identified as White on the map. However, if the areas of commercial coverage currently identified as ‘under review’ and/or ‘out of scope/under review’ do not materialise then these areas could potentially be added to the contract(s) intervention area.

This State Aid public consultation and the proposed NGA broadband Intervention Area maps are available to all stakeholders on the Welsh Government’s website at http://lle.gov.wales/map/ngaomr2017 and will also be available via BDUK’s website at BDUK Table of local broadband projects.

8. Responding to this State Aid Public Consultation

The Welsh Government is requesting information and supporting evidence in relation to basic and NGA broadband infrastructure within the project area and wish to hear from all relevant stakeholders (including residents, businesses as well as broadband infrastructure operators), particularly in relation to areas to be targeted as part of the NGA intervention area at Annex [A].

For the avoidance of doubt, there is no need to respond to this public consultation if you have no comment to make.

For residents and businesses, where this relates to the ability to receive an NGA service, any information provided in response to this State Aid public consultation should as a minimum include (but need not be limited to) the address of the property or area that the submission relates to and the nature of the concern.

In addition, for residents and businesses any information regarding the ‘filtered premises’ contained within the interactive map should, as a minimum include the correct premises classification and/or a description of the premises and a description of the discrepancy. Full guidance on how to review the filtered premise list is outlined in Annex B.

If the response is from an infrastructure provider and comments on the white, grey and/or black or exclusion area classifications within the attached maps or data, or on the wholesale products to offered via the subsidised network, then
the submission should also include the specific information set out in Section 9.

For all submissions, the Welsh Government would be grateful if you would contact OMR@wales.gsi.gov.uk to register your intention to submit a response and could confirm in your submission the following:

- Clearly mark in the subject title ‘State Aid Public Consultation’
- Your organisation’s name (if applicable)
- Your organisation’s address (if applicable)
- Your name
- Position
- Contact telephone number
- Email Address

The Welsh Government will then arrange access to the Response Template (or subset thereof if you are reporting on a specific area). The Welsh Government also requests confirmation from an authorised signatory that the information provided is suitably accurate and up to date.

Please send your responses no later than 17:00 on the 13th July 2017. All responses by residents, businesses and infrastructure operators should be submitted within the consultation timescales and in accordance with the contact details above. Responses received after the consultation closes at 17:00 on the 13th July 2017 may not be considered.

Please note that the data you provide in your response will be treated as commercially confidential to your organisation. However, it may be necessary to share/some all of your response data with our professional advisers and/or DCMS/BDUK, Ofcom, the National Competence Centre and the European Commission in the course of seeking State Aid approval.

It should also be noted that it is a State Aid requirement to use this information to produce State Aid maps to define white, grey and black areas for basic and NGA broadband. However, the published maps will show the aggregated White/Grey/Black NGA and Basic Broadband areas, not the data provided on a per-operator basis. The final maps that will be used for procurement purposes will be published shortly after the conclusion of this State Aid public consultation and once approved by the National Competence Centre.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact the Welsh Government’s OMR team by email as above.
9. Information Requested

This section specifies the information you are requested to provide in response to this State Aid public consultation in relation to the presence of broadband infrastructure.

The Welsh Government’s requesting information on, and supporting evidence for, any current or planned (within the next 3 years) investment in broadband infrastructure across Wales, where this may not be already included within the proposed NGA and Basic broadband intervention area maps attached.

For any current or planned coverage not included within the proposed State Aid intervention areas shown on the attached map, the Welsh Government is requesting information at premise level, using the template issued by the Welsh Government to show existing or planned coverage by your broadband infrastructure investment. By ‘covered’ (or ‘passed’) the Welsh Government means that fixed network infrastructure is or will be available to the premises, potentially subject to a final drop connection, or that the premises are able to receive a suitable quality radio signal over the air interface, potentially subject to the installation of a suitable antenna.

Any information provided in response to this State Aid public consultation should include, but need not be limited to:

- Detailed maps for NGA broadband showing existing and planned coverage, for at least the next 3 years.
- Details of premises covered or passed that fixed network infrastructure is or will be available to the premises within the next 3 years, potentially subject to a final drop connection, or that the premises are able to receive a suitable quality radio signal over the air interface, potentially subject to the installation of a suitable antenna.
- A detailed description of the technology solution(s) deployed (or to be deployed) in your broadband infrastructure, demonstrating how they meet the minimum standards as set out in the BDUK NGA Technology Guidelines.
- A description of the services/products currently offered, and separately those services/products to be offered within the next 3 years.
- Installation, annual/monthly subscription, and additional volume or per-service tariffs for those services/products (identifying whether such tariffs are inclusive or exclusive of VAT).
- Upload and download speeds typically experienced by end-users, and how these may vary by factors such as distance, increased take-up or demand, contention, etc.
- Appropriate indicators of the quality of services (e.g. contention ratios, bandwidth allocation per user, etc), including any characteristics (e.g. latency, jitter) that are required to support advanced services such as video conferencing or HD video streaming.

\[\text{This template information corresponds with that specified in the Annex to the “OMR Request for Information” document originally issued on 5th January 2017}\]
- Evidence to substantiate actual or planned coverage claims, including business cases and evidence of available funding to enable plans to be fulfilled.
- Details and planned timing of roll-out of any future investments, including further investments required to cope with future increases in take-up or demand.

Please supplement the required information above with any supporting evidence as you consider appropriate (e.g. links to public websites).

The Welsh Government would also be interested to hear from operators their views as to the types of wholesale access products they would like to see offered on any newly created subsidised NGA network infrastructure. This information may inform the intervention design. Please note that we are not obliged to include these products in the Invitation to Tender (unless already required under any State Aid Decision)\(^9\).

10. Next Steps

Following any responses received to this State Aid public consultation by the closing date of 13\(^{th}\) July 2017, the Welsh Government plans to publish the final Intervention Area maps shortly after the close of the consultation period.

This will be followed by the launch of the ITT to Suppliers to bid for the opportunity to fulfil a new contract to deliver the extended coverage.

Information about Superfast Cymru can be found at:


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\(^9\) Operators will still be able to request new forms of access products on the subsidised NGA network infrastructure through the formal general access provisions under the terms of a future State Aid Decision.
Annex A

Figure 1: Basic Broadband State Aid Consultation Map

The NGA broadband map along with the postcode list showing number of eligible white premises can be found via the Welsh Government website: [http://lle.gov.wales/map/ngaomr2017](http://lle.gov.wales/map/ngaomr2017)

A high-level map of the Intervention Area is show below in Figure 2.
The Welsh Government intends to make the 2017 NGA Intervention Area White Premises list available to ensure that any future procurement for the Intervention Area target actual eligible premises as efficiently as possible. Therefore, a full dataset of UPRN’s within Wales, classed as white premises will also be released to those registering to respond to this Public Consultation, and upon signing the Public Sector End User Licence (which can be found on the Welsh Government Consultation Portal) and this has been returned to OMR@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Figure 2: NGA Broadband State Aid Consultation Map
Annex B – Instructions for using interactive maps to comment on filtered premises

The following instructions are intended to guide users wishing to comment on details of premises data compiled during the initial phase of the OMR.

1. To access the mapping information, please click on the following link: http://lle.gov.wales/map/ngaomr2017

2. If happy to do so, tick the box confirming you accept the terms and conditions. This will lead you to the main mapping screen.

3. The menu on the left-hand side of the screen has 3 tabs, the key tabs being “Legend” and “Layers”

4. The “Legend” tab provides a key to the symbols and colour scheme employed to indicate data at the premises and postcode level, e.g.:
   a. Next Generation Broadband Access OMR - Next Generation Access OMR 'White' Premises
   b. Next Generation Broadband Access OMR - Next Generation Access OMR 'Non-White' Premises
   c. Next Generation Broadband Access OMR - Next Generation Access OMR 'Filtered' Premises. Filtered premises are those which were removed from the premises data set because they appear to relate to sites unsuitable for NGA supply (e.g. aqueduct, pond etc.)
   d. Next Generation Broadband Access OMR - Next Generation Access OMR Postcodes

5. The “Layers” tab enables the user to turn on / off different layers relating to these different classes of premise and postcode information – enabling the user, for example, to make the maps show only “filtered” premises.

6. To examine the data at the premises level, click on the map and use the cursor to move the map of Wales to show the required area. Use the zoom in / zoom out symbols (in the top left-hand corner of the map) to drill down to the precise premise required.

7. If the user wishes to comment on a particular premise – for example if it has been “filtered” erroneously – then clicking on the premise will trigger the appearance of a feedback box. This will ask for comments, name and contact details (only “comments” is a mandatory field) – which will be submitted to the Welsh Government. A copy of the feedback will be emailed to the user if an email address is provided.