

Press Release

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Panel says spectrum auction could bring real social and economic benefits to rural communities

Commenting on today's debate in the House of Commons on rural broadband, Acting Chair of the Communications Consumer Panel Bob Warner said:

“Today’s debate on rural broadband in the House of Commons brings into stark relief the harm that consumers and small businesses suffer without fast internet access. This is particularly apparent in the devolved nations and other rural communities.

“The Consumer Panel believes that Government could use the Spectrum Auction and relicensing to deliver improved services for consumers and small businesses - a very practical approach that does not simply maximise the income for the exchequer, but could bring real social and economic benefits to people and their communities.”

Ends

CONTACTS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Communications Consumer Panel was established to advise Ofcom on the consumer interest in the markets it regulates. The Panel is independent and sets its own agenda. Visit www.communicationsconsumerpanel.org.uk for more information.