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## UK INTERNET CONSIGNED TO SLOW LANE FOR YEARS NEW RESEARCH SHOWS

- **Only 6.5% of UK homes are predicted to be covered by gigabit-capable fibre by 2020**
- **Only 96 out of 633 constituencies expected to get fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) coverage above 10%**
- **BT's G.Fast rollout expected to be limited to people living within a few hundred metres of an existing superfast street cabinet**
- **Expected G.Fast rollout to increase UK ultrafast household coverage by less than 5%**

New research published today reveals that only 6.5 % of UK households can expect to receive gigabit-capable fibre-optic cables by 2020. In contrast, more than 80% of homes in Sweden and Spain are already passed by fibre and in Portugal the figure is now above 60%. Portugal and Spain are expected to get to 95% FTTP coverage by 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The research was produced by Point Topic, a leading independent market intelligence company, for Vodafone UK, to predict where BT will direct Openreach to deploy FTTP and its much slower, copper line G.Fast technology. BT has so far failed to release clear roll out plans by region or constituency.

The research predicts that up to 90% of any G.Fast roll-out will focus on areas which will also be covered by ultrafast cable and will only be offered to customers living within a few hundred metres of an existing superfast street cabinet. These results are supported by BT's own recently commissioned report from Analysys Mason<sup>2</sup>, which suggests that up to 100% of BT's G.Fast build will duplicate areas already covered by Virgin Media.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Electronic Communications Code of 14.09.16](#) (see page 78 of Impact Assessment part 1)

<sup>2</sup> "Comparative analysis of outcomes in the UK broadband market: coverage, connections and competition" [Click here](#)

<sup>3</sup> See Figure 1.2 in full report (available on request)



The research reveals that only Wales is likely to have more than 10% of its homes passed with FTTP. Of 633<sup>4</sup> constituencies, only 96 (15%) can expect to have FTTP coverage above 10%. It also finds that the prospect of homes in the North East receiving fibre is particularly bad. The full table can be found below.

Vodafone UK Director of External Affairs Helen Lamprell, said: "We call upon BT to be up-front with the British public about its roll out plans and acknowledge that G.Fast will do nothing to help those stranded on archaic and woefully inadequate broadband today. BT is pushing a muddled compromise rooted in the past, while the rest of the world is focused on building the Gigabit Society at light speed over fibre."

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## Notes to editors:

- Nearly every UK broadband provider and all the main mobile operators depend on the national network, managed by Openreach, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT, which is paid billions to maintain UK's national network infrastructure.
- Point Topic uses advanced modelling techniques to forecast future broadband coverage using both FTTP and G.Fast at a national and regional level as well as by constituency. Its analysis found that despite 10 million premises being promised G.Fast (termed 'ultrafast' by BT) by 2020, UK ultrafast coverage will increase by less than 5%. Overwhelmingly, those who already have access to ultrafast cable broadband will only get one more provider. Those who don't will get nothing.

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<sup>4</sup> The analysis did not break down Northern Ireland coverage at constituency level.



The table below breaks down predicted FTTP and G.Fast coverage by nation and region:

Nations and Regions	UK Households in FTTP footprint (coverage in 2020)	UK Households in G.Fast Footprint (coverage in 2020)	UK Households in G.Fast Footprint incremental to cable (coverage in 2020)
North East	2.8%	33.7%	5.02%
East of England	4.2%	26.4%	2.76%
South East	4.3%	24.6%	2.35%
East Midlands	5.0%	30.7%	1.59%
North West	5.1%	39.7%	5.63%
West Midlands	5.3%	42.8%	2.27%
Northern Ireland	5.7%	27.2%	5.18%
Yorkshire and The Humber	7.7%	29.0%	4.07%
Scotland	8.4%	54.3%	4.98%
South West	8.9%	17.3%	1.87%
London	9.2%	52.9%	4.66%
Wales	11.5%	30.5%	7.94%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>3.78%</b>

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