

# FCS around the UK Coventry



## Programme for the day

- 10.30 **Telephony Session**
- 12.00 **The Bigger Picture**
- 13.00 **Lunch & Networking**
- 14.00 **Radio and Wireless Session**

# The Bigger Picture

## Programme for this session

- Introductions
- Europe
- UK Digital Economy Act
- UK General election
- Ofcom's annual plan 2010-11

## Europe

- Europe- changes to the framework directive to become law by May 2011
- 1 day number portability
- Consumer contracts- 24 months maximum
- Better consumer information
- Protecting internet access
- Minimum network quality
- Consumer protection against personal data breaches and spam

## Europe

- Better access to emergency services
- New EU authority- BEREC, set up from the existing European Regulators Group from January 2010
- Commission say on competition in national markets
- Functional separation a tool for European regulators
- Accelerating broadband access
- Encouraging competition and investment in next generation access – including access to poles and ducts

# UK Digital Economy Act

Agreed by Government and Opposition at the end of this Parliament but may be more changes in future depending on election outcome

- Extends the role of Ofcom to include reporting on communications infrastructure and media content \*This could affect CPs- but does not add to Ofcom's duties
- Imposes obligations on internet service providers to reduce online copyright infringement, and allows the Secretary of State to amend copyright legislation to the same end \* this could affect CPs and resellers
- Allows the Secretary of State to intervene in internet domain name registration
- Requires Channel Four to provide public service content on a range of media
- Provides more flexibility over the licensing of Channel 3 and Channel 5 services and allows Ofcom to appoint providers of regional and local news

# UK Digital Economy Act

Also:

- Modifies the licensing regime to facilitate switchover to digital radio –**there may be opportunities for installers**
- Allows variation of the public service provision in Channel 3 and 5 licences
- Provides Ofcom with additional powers in relation to electromagnetic spectrum access
- Extends the range of video games that are subject to age-related classification
- Makes provision for the regulation of copyright licensing
- Includes non-print formats in the public lending right payment scheme

## No New Landline Tax

Government proposals for a 50p landline tax were dropped from the last Finance Bill of this Parliament

However- how will investment in infrastructure for the final third be financed?

# UK General Election

## What does the future hold?

- Conservatives say they will reduce Ofcom activity in line with their purge on unelected quangos and lack of accountability,
  - “So with a Conservative Government, OFCOM as we know it will cease to exist. Its remit will be restricted to its narrow technical and enforcement roles” David Cameron, summer 2009
  - BBC licence fee to support superfast broadband roll out
  - To break BT’s monopoly on infrastructure and permit other providers to use BT’s ducts and pipes- Jeremy Hunt February 2010
- Labour will progress the Digital Britain report and implement aspects of the Digital Economy Bill dropped as the Bill became law including the 50ppm fixed line tax
- Lib Dems want broadband for all including rural areas
- Ofcom waiting for outcome of election- annual plan for 2010 has limited projects
- Little time for a new Communications Act to implement the EU revised framework by May 2011

# Ofcom's annual plan 2010-11

## Telephony



Ensure consumers can switch between CPs by removing unnecessary barriers

- Review number portability- mobile consultation on 1 day donor led porting
- Strategic approach to consumer switching- focus on bundles
- Automatically renewable contracts- impact on switching behaviour and competition

Ensure availability, take-up and effective use of communications services

- Easy to use technologies- VoIP speech to text demonstrator system for hearing impaired
- Enforcement of Universal Service Order

# Ofcom's annual plan 2010-11

## Telephony



Protecting consumers from harm

- PRS regulation programme- parallel consultation with PPP on 12th code
- Consumer complaints review

Business customers

- Understand business experiences of telecoms

# Ofcom's annual plan 2010-11

## Telephony- competition

- Wholesale local access market review
- Wholesale broadband access market review
- Geographic number management
- NTS retail uplift- PRS bad debt surcharge and RPI-X charge control
- NTS strategic review
- NTS- ongoing monitoring
- Review of retail and wholesale narrowband multiple channel markets
- Numbering policy programme
- Mobile call termination market review- implement proposals by March 2011
- Wholesale charge for ported calls
- Implementing the Telecoms Strategic Review
- Continuing programme of investigation of complaints and breaches of competition law



# Bigger Picture session

Thank you

Any Questions or Issues?