



The Parliament & Internet Conference 2022
The UK's latest digital policy agenda for a changing world
 Attlee Suite, Portcullis House | 23rd March 2022 from 9am to 1pm

PARLIAMENT
& INTERNET

09:00-09:20	Registration and Coffee	
09.20-09.25	Opening remarks	
09:25 – 10:25	<p>Panel Session 1</p>  	<p>Is gigabit capable broadband on track to level up the UK?</p> <p>The Levelling up agenda is the key government pillar with infrastructure playing a key role in the Government’s focus on achieving its agenda.</p> <p>The broadband sector is extremely vibrant with ISPs and operators bringing in significant investment into a vital part of the UK’s infrastructure as they roll out gigabit capable broadband across the nation. The rollout of gigabit capable broadband has the opportunity to play a significant role in helping rebalance the UK, with all citizens and businesses having access to the fastest, most reliable broadband, opening up economic and social opportunities across the UK.</p> <p>However, the rollout continues to be hampered by barriers, such as access to land, which is delaying the rollout and in many areas risking the creation of a digital divide, particularly between urban and rural areas and even within urban areas. Legislation is helping address this, but there are questions over whether this adequately meets the task at hand.</p> <p>Government’s ambitions of full coverage by 2025 has been scaled back, but with over 60% of the UK now able to access gigabit capable broadband, this panel will examine the likelihood of achieving Government’s target of 85% coverage by 2025. The panel will discuss what more policymakers can do to assist in speeding up deployment particularly in the hardest to reach areas, how to ensure rural areas are not left behind in the rollout and how Government and providers can work together to reach full coverage of the UK.</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selaine Saxby MP & Chair, APPG for Broadband and Digital Communication (Chair) • Richard Swinford, Head of Digital Infrastructure Investment, DCMS • Alex Blowers, Director of Regulatory Affairs, CityFibre • Catherine Colloms, Director Corporate Affairs and Brand, Openreach • Henri Murison, Director, The Northern Powerhouse Partnership

10:25 – 10:45	Keynote	In conversation: Helen Milner, Group Chief Executive, Good Things Foundation
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	Networking
11:15-11:35	Keynote	Stephen Bonner, Executive Director, Regulatory Futures, ICO
11:35 - 12:35	Panel Session 2	<p>Where next for a ‘UK Internet’?</p> <p>Government is taking steps to meet the 2019 manifesto commitment to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. This is by no means a straightforward task - online safety is becoming increasingly complicated.</p> <p>The UK has long held a global leadership position in this area, yet the introduction of more complex value chains, new business models and new players has rendered the Government’s trusted approach of implementing online safety via voluntary cooperation from UK ISPs ineffective. A new approach is required.</p> <p>The UK Government’s answer has been the publication of the Draft Online Safety Bill alongside a more robust public approach towards end-2-end encryption, the development of international standards that underpin how the internet works and increased obligations on age-appropriate services. Crucially, the UK is no longer the only (western) country with a proactive approach to online safety regulation, with the EU making fast progress with the Digital Service Act. This leads to a number of important questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we witnessing the emergence of a UK internet, with a very specific approach to the regulation of online safety but also cyber security and supply chains? • How can we effectively combine safety, privacy and security and how can we ensure those considerations are made early in the development of services and business models? • With the EU Digital Service Act making faster progress than the UK Online Safety Bill, is the UK still leading from the front and should we seek greater alignment with international partners? • What is the responsibility of online players and should this responsibility apply globally? <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – tbc • Michael Tunks, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Manager, IWF • Katie O'Donovan, Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google • Till Sommer, Head of Policy, ISPA UK • Emily Taylor, CEO, Oxford Information Labs • Amy Jordan, Director for Technology Policy, OFCOM
12.35pm	Closing remarks	