



Ed Vaizey MP
Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1AH 0ET

7th September 2010

Your ref: CMS 150933

Dear Ed

Ian passed me your letter of 17th August and asked if I would investigate and respond. You asked about broadband service at Bradley Stoke and any plans to include Filton exchange in our fibre optic broadband network upgrade.

The community of Bradley Stoke is actually served from three telephone exchanges - Almondsbury, Filton and Winterbourne. Because of the way that Bradley Stoke has developed, many of its homes and businesses are a fair distance from whichever exchange it is that serves them. The long length of the telephone line will mean that some customers may not be able to get the broadband speeds they want. To date, none of the three exchanges serving Bradley Stoke have been included in the fibre plans we have published. Should this change as more exchanges are announced later in the year and through 2011, I will of course inform you and the local MP, Jack Lopresti.

BT does of course want to get fibre to as many parts of Britain as possible. As you know, we are currently investing £2.5bn to deploy fibre to around two thirds of premises across the country by the end of 2015, subject to an acceptable environment for investment. To date we have announced more than 460 telephone exchanges where we plan to install this technology between now and spring 2011, bringing fibre within reach of 4m premises. This investment is one of the largest in the world that doesn't rely on public sector funding and where the network is open to all service providers on an equal basis.



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Her Majesty The Queen
Suppliers of Communications, Broadband
and Networked Services
BT
London



The issue for Bradley Stoke is that the costs of providing fibre increase dramatically for premises distant from any local exchange. Typically, for these locations some kind of public sector funding will be needed in order to make it commercially viable for super-fast broadband to be provided. We are happy to work with organisations which can help us to find solutions. In Iwade in Kent, local council money "gap funded" a scheme to provide higher speed broadband from BT. It may be that in the future, some similar solution is possible for Bradley Stoke. I would be happy to arrange a meeting between Bradley Stoke Council and BT's local network business, Openreach, to explore potential solutions for this area.

I know you're coming to BT on 28th September to see Ian, and that may provide a good opportunity for further discussion.

Regards,

Michael Prescott

If you need to call on this or anything else just phone - MP.

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