

BT Statement provided to BBC Bristol on 2nd March 2011

"We are pleased Ofcom rated our Infinity service so highly but overall we have real concerns with their approach. Moving to typical speed ranges will potentially be highly misleading as the average performance will vary depending on where people live. Enforcing typical speed ranges is also dangerous as it could encourage more ISPs to cherry pick customers who will increase their average, leaving customers in rural and suburban areas under-served. That would encourage digital exclusion rather than tackle it."

On Bristol - "The city currently has three exchange areas enabled for super-fast fibre broadband providing speeds up to 40Mb/s - Downend (the first in the South West to get it), Bristol North and Bristol West providing the technology to around 35,000 households and businesses.

"BT is investing £2.5bn to roll out fibre to two thirds of homes by 2015 but the final third is far more expensive and challenging and so we've always said that the public sector would need to partner with BT or with other companies, if fibre is to be extended to such areas. "Such partnerships could be with central government, on a regional basis (eg our partnership in Northern Ireland and Cornwall) or on a local basis (eg our recent deal in Iwade, Kent).

"In the Bristol area BT is talking individually to Bristol City council, South Gloucestershire Council, North Somerset and BANES and as a group, to the west of England Local Economic Partnership to find ways to bring fibre broadband to **that final third including** areas such as Bradley Stoke"

Final para later amended to:

"In the Bristol area BT is talking individually to Bristol City council, South Gloucestershire Council, North Somerset and BANES and as a group, to the west of England Local Economic Partnership to find ways to bring fibre broadband to **those more challenging** areas such as Bradley Stoke"