

Building 
Britain's Future



BIS | Department for
Business Innovation & Skills



SESSION 4 - DIGITAL BRITAIN – SECURING RESOURCES

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In context

- Building Britain's Future
- New active 'industrial policy'
- Economic recovery and regeneration – sectors of the future?
- Commitment and Resources
- Effective Implementation



Background

- Convergence makes us look at the Digital sector in its full importance: £52bn turnover and vital enabler for rest of the economy
- Step up in profile and recognition
- Significant Stake in Ground – in UK and internationally





Digital Britain Report - process

- Small central unit and existing policy teams
- Nine months of meetings, research, discussion
- Steering Board to provide expert input
- Close contact with stakeholders across broadcasting, internet and communications sectors and beyond
- Outputs a combination of soft power, regulatory interventions, legislation and longer term aspirations.



Digital Britain Report – Resources

- Run essentially by Minister (Lord Carter); appointed by Prime Minister
- Launched in November 2008; Interim Report on 29 January and Final on 16th June
- Small Team of full time officials (6-7) led by a Director and supported by policy officials in BIS and DCMS;
- Wider input secured as necessary from business and other stakeholders
- Steering Group of Experts (11) chaired by Peter Black and including industry, academia and sec
- Met weekly (at business premises)
- 500 bilateral and Ministerial meetings



Digital Britain Report – Costs

- Consultant costs: £188k which includes consultant and expert reports;
- Consultation costs (Digital Britain Summit): £48k
- Publishing Costs: £52k – 3000 copies
- Food and drinks: £10k
- Research costs: £ 81k



Findings 1: Digital Participation

- Three year national plan to improve Digital Participation
- £12m for targeted outreach and marketing
- Programme of Digital Switchover in public services
- Martha Lane Fox the new Champion for Digital Inclusion
- Revised remit for C4



Findings 2: Digital Infrastructure

- Universal access to today's broadband (2Mbps) by 2012
- Next Generation fund for tomorrow's broadband
- Mobile spectrum liberalisation
- Digital Radio upgrade 2015
- New role for Ofcom in assessing infrastructure



Findings 3: Digital Content

- Framework for tackling piracy
- Digital Test Beds to promote innovation around digital content
- New uses of TV licence fee, primarily to secure news in the nations, regions and nationally
- New direction for Channel 4
- Guidance and clarification on the media mergers regime



Reactions

- ‘Ambitious...strong vision’...Ian Livingstone, BT
- ‘Worst report I’ve ever read’...attr. Mark Selby, VP Nokia



What happens next?

- Digital Economy Bill
- Big implementation challenges
- Working with Nations and Regions
- General election!
- ...and everything after



Process

- Implementation Team set up (2) led by Director;
- Working through policy officials – consultations
- Budget of £60k at present – includes a further summit in New Year
- Each Action line in Report has policy official responsible



Thank you

Questions?

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