

[BCC comments on government's Digital Strategy](#)

Commenting on the publication of the government's Digital Strategy, Marcus Mason, Head of Business, Education and Skills at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said:

"The UK is still some way behind delivering access to a world-class digital infrastructure to businesses in all parts of the country. The rollout of superfast broadband needs to focus on new and existing business parks as their lack of connectivity remains a huge concern, and rectifying this would go some way to boosting business confidence.

"This strategy needs to have a focus on urgently addressing poor mobile coverage, which is particularly important for the businesses in rural areas, as our members confirm they struggle to get access to a stable mobile service. Commitments should be taken to provide better access to information and increase coverage, and to ensure mobile operators offer a suitable service.

"Businesses will appreciate the commitment to developing digital skills, which can help boost productivity. A thriving digital economy however, needs to be underpinned by a pragmatic immigration system which allows firms to access the high and low skilled workers they need, where there are local labour shortages.

"We would welcome the opportunity to engage with the Business Connectivity Forum, and ensure the specific connectivity needs and interests of the UK's business communities are represented."

Ends

Notes to editors:

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) sits at the heart of a powerful network of 52 Accredited Chambers of Commerce across the UK, representing thousands of businesses of all sizes and within all sectors. Our Global Business Network connects exporters with nearly 40 markets around the world. For more information, visit: www.britishchambers.org.uk

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