PET(4)-11-12 : Monday 2 July 2012 P-04-364 : Fibre Optic for Rural Areas

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AC / AM Y Gweinidog Busnes, Menter, Technoleg a Gwyddoniaeth Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-364 Ein cyf/Our ref EH/06004/12

William Powell AM Chair Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

8th June 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for you letter of 21 May asking for an update on the roll out of next generation broadband to rural areas across Wales.

We are addressing a lack of high speed broadband availability through the Next Generation Broadband for Wales project, which seeks to ensure that residential and business premises across Wales have access to high speed broadband by 2015. The project will intervene in areas where the private sector is not investing and this predominately includes rural, remote and deprived areas.

The procurement process for the Next Generation Broadband Wales project has very nearly concluded and we anticipate that a preferred bidder will be announced in the near future. We are on track to deliver the Programme for Government target by 2015.

In the meantime, in 2012/13 the successful Broadband Support Scheme will continue to run alongside the NGBW project to provide support to rural 'not spot' and 'slow spot' areas in Wales.

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