



# Standards Group

10:00 – 11:30 Tuesday 4 April 2023

# Welcome & Agenda - Max

| Time        | Item   | Who     |
|-------------|--|---------|
| 10:00-10:05 | Welcome & Agenda   | Max     |
| 10:05-10:10 | Summary of points from previous meeting  | Max     |
| 10:10-10:40 | Ofcom Consultation <a href="#">Improving broadband information for customers</a> | Mike    |
| 10:40-11:00 | Update on Vulnerable Customers   | Max     |
| 11:00-11:10 | Street works - report back from the INCA Speeding Up Deployment seminar          | Malcolm |
| 11:10-11:15 | Wholesale standards  | Max     |
| 11:15-11:20 | Operational Standards  | Max     |
| 11:20-11:30 | AOB  | All     |

# Summary of previous meeting

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- Ofcom consultation on broadband information – We agreed to wait for publication of the consultation and noted we would organise input from members when this launched. It has now launched and we will gather input in this meeting.
- Standardising vulnerability information – We agreed that I would pull together an initial view that we may want to take to Ofcom, I have done that and this will be circulated for comment.
- Street works and flexi permits – The speeding up deployment event has now happened and we will report back on that in this meeting.
- Wholesale and operational standards, we gathered member opinions on how to take these areas forward, we have a few suggestions to raise in this meeting.

# Ofcom Consultation – closing 3<sup>rd</sup> May 23

“Improving broadband information for customers”

Q1: Do you agree with GC proposals to clarify

1. Consistent description of services, including a one- or two-word description of the underlying technology; and
2. “fibre” and “full-fibre” only used for FTTP?

Q2: Do you agree that providers should give an easily accessible explanation of the one- or two-word terms used?

*Please provide evidence on support of your views.*

Ofcom’s page including the consultation form is [here](#)

INCA’s page on this consultation is [here](#)

# Ofcom consultation response

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- INCA should be in favour and answer “Yes” to both questions
- Review INCA Position Statement Feb 22
- Remove items not directly relevant to consultation
- Circulate to Standards for comment
  
- Feedback by Wed 19 Apr for follow up meeting with Ofcom.

# Ofcom Standards / Broadband info (7 Sep 22)

Ofcom [position paper](#) “proposed consensus” – on hold since Feb 22

1. “gigabit-ready” vs “current generation”

2. Defined terms:

1. Fibre/Full fibre/FTTP, Cable/Hybrid cable, Part fibre/FTTC/Cu-based or
2. Fibre/Full fibre/FTTP protected terms

| Underlying product            | Description for customer        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| FTTC 40/10 services           | ‘current generation part fibre’ |
| FTTP 40/10 service            | ‘gigabit-ready fibre’           |
| DOCSIS 3.1 service over cable | ‘gigabit-ready cable’           |
| DOCSIS 3.0 service over cable | ‘current generation cable’      |
| G.Fast 150MBit/s service      | ‘current generation part-fibre’ |

# Ofcom's Existing Definitions – (7 Sep 22)

## Connected Nations

- Full-fibre / full fibre
- 5G
- Gigabit-capable
- Gigabit speeds
- Upgraded cable
- DOCSIS
- Superfast

- Copper (ADSL)
- FTTC
- Hybrid fibre coaxial cable (HFC)
- FTTP
- FWA / FWA WISPs

Also GCs

# INCA Gold Standard & Ofcom – (7 Sep 22)

Despite pause in Ofcom progress, should we amend INCA Gold Standards to align with the good ideas in the [Ofcom paper](#)?

- [INCA position paper in response](#)

1. Gigabit tick (cf TV Digital Tick)



2. Align terms

1. FTTP / Full fibre
2. FTTC / Part fibre / Copper-based
3. New > HFC / Hybrid cable / cable
4. FWA / Wireless





# Standardising Vulnerability Update

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- I have drafted a high level paper capturing the current picture, benefits of standardisation, and issues if this work is not done.
- We would welcome member views on the paper, as it needs further development.
- Once the paper is finalised I suggest we engage with colleagues in Ofcom who are involved in work on improving outcomes for vulnerable consumers to gauge interest and appetite for work in this area.

# Street Works and Flexi Permits

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- Malcolm to fill

# Standardising products and services for Wholesale

- In a previous meeting Niall Halpenny of Sonalake gave a presentation on pragmatic alignment between BSS and TMF.
- David Turner has also offered a presentation on important open standards and interfaces from a vendor and technology perspective.
- We have only had a few expressions of interest for involvement in a separate group to take this work forward, and so have decided to keep this within the main standards group as a recurring item.
- We would welcome feedback from members on the areas that need to be focused in on in order to drive standardisation of products and services as current it is a wide remit. Member opinions?

# Operational standards that support consolidation

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- Consolidation is coming to the market, and standardisation will help in making the process less painful for all parties.
- We would welcome the thoughts and experience of members who have been through a consolidation process on their learnings from that process, and the pitfalls they experienced.
- Having an understanding of the difficulties experienced by those who have gone through the process of consolidation will enable us to identify possible approaches for standardisation that may lessen those issues.
- Is anyone who has gone through a consolidation willing to present to this group at the next meeting?

# AOB and Date of Next Meeting

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- Next meeting 16th May 10:00-11:30
- Wed 5 Apr [Breakfast Call](#)
- Tue 11 Apr [SWSIG](#)
- Fri 21 Apr [Webinar with Ofcom](#) on Openreach Monitoring Unit (OMU)
- Tue 25 Apr [Labour & Skills SIG](#)
- Thu 27 Apr [PIA SIG](#)
- Thu 27 Apr [OTS Webinar](#)