

CONFIDENTIAL



15 September 2014

Bill Wiggin MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: ZA17186/OM

Dear Mr Wiggin,

Thank you for your letters of 14 July and 1 September concerning the village of Fownhope in your constituency.

Please accept my apologies that we failed to reply to your earlier letter.

Vodafone has stated that we will bring 2G, 3G and 4G coverage to the 98% of UK population in the next two years, seeing us invest in excess of £1 billion per year in our network.

I have reviewed the plans for Fownhope with our network team and they are still to finalise the plans for the area. We hope to have this completed by the end of the year, but early indications are that our 3G indoor population coverage to your constituents will double by the end of the programme.

I note your comments regarding the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP) and the frustration of local residents that a site has been withdrawn. We are fully supportive of MIP, but we have no direct influence on the intervention areas as these were defined by OFCOM.

You may have heard recently about our Rural Open Sure Signal (ROSS) project in which we are seeking 100 communities to benefit from our innovative solution to provide local communities with 3G coverage. I wondered if any of the communities in your constituency, including Fownhope, would be interested in taking part?

Many rural communities suffer poor mobile signal, often due to geographical challenges such as being situated in a valley, or perhaps because local residents or local authorities prefer not to have a full-sized mast in the area.

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This community-led programme aims to bring coverage to small rural communities across England, Wales, and Scotland, and we ask local communities to work with us by:

- Nominating a Village Champion
- Suggesting suitable sites where we can install Open Sure Signal units
- Gaining permission from landlords and property owners to use these sites
- Having a minimum of 4MBps broadband speed at each site
- Gaining the support of their local parish council, and MP, AM or MSP

Your constituents may be interested in an article which appeared in the Daily Telegraph, and which includes a video about Rural Open Sure Signal at Cranborne in Dorset, one of the first communities to be connected during our first pilot programme in 2012:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/internet/10982243/Vodafone-offers-3G-boost-in-rural-areas.html>

There is more information on Rural Open Sure Signal available at: [www.vodafone.co.uk/rural](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/rural) and the application pack can be downloaded from our web page. The closing date for applications is 14 October 2014.

I hope you find this of interest.

Yours sincerely



Paul Morris  
Head of Government Affairs, Vodafone UK