

Alister Jack DL MP
Member of Parliament for Dumfries and Galloway



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr David McCall
Chairman
Kippford Association



Our Ref: AJ1528

21 December 2017

Dear Mr McCall

Broadband in Dumfries and Galloway

I wanted to thank you for either taking part in my broadband survey or directly contacting me about your broadband service. I have been overwhelmed by the number of responses, which I believe demonstrates the importance that people in Dumfries and Galloway attach to the availability of decent broadband.

I am of the view that poor connectivity is holding Dumfries and Galloway back, and that is why after the New Year I will be arranging to meet the UK Government's Digital Minister, The Rt. Hon Matt Hancock MP, to present him with the results from my survey and press the case for more investment in broadband infrastructure here in our region.

I am also pleased to make you aware that the House of Commons' Scottish Affairs Committee has just launched a public inquiry into broadband and mobile phone coverage in Scotland.

It is important that the Committee hears views of people, businesses and organisations from across Scotland and I am keen that the views of Dumfries and Galloway are well represented in the evidence sent to the Committee. I will do this by making my own representation to the Committee using the information that you have provided through my survey.

If you would like to make your own submission, your views can be provided to the Committee by either using the online form on the Committee website or by sending submissions to: Scottish Affairs Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.


The deadline for written submissions is 31st January 2018.

Any information on digital connectivity would be useful, but in particular the Committee is interested in answers to the following questions:

- What level and standard of mobile and broadband coverage does Scotland need to achieve to maximise the economic and social benefits of greater connectivity? To what extent do current plans for the rollout of broadband and mobile coverage in Scotland meet these needs?
- What are the barriers (economic, technical, regulatory, other) to delivering superfast broadband and improved mobile coverage in Scotland? What steps could be taken overcome these challenges?
- Is the level of funding for broadband and mobile phone coverage in Scotland sufficient given the geographic and demographic challenges Scotland faces?
- How well do the different stakeholders (UK Government, the Scottish Government, service providers) work together? Are there ways these relationships could be improved?
- What technology options are available to increase connectivity in rural, and other hard to reach, areas of Scotland? What support is needed to develop and deliver these solutions?

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018.

Yours sincerely


Alister Jack DL MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency