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Building Digital UK (BDUK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) 100 Parliament Street London SW1 2BQ

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Dame Meg Hillier Chair, Public Accounts Committee House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Sent by email only

31 May 2022

Dear Chair,

## Project Gigabit Spring Update and BDUK Corporate Plan 2022-23

I am writing to update you on Building Digital UK's (BDUK) latest quarterly delivery report for Project Gigabit, which we published on 30 May.

Our <u>Spring Update</u> sets out the progress that has already been made in delivering fast and reliable connectivity to homes and businesses across the UK. The latest figures show that 68% of homes and businesses in the UK can now access gigabit-capable broadband, continuing a rate of incremental growth in line with meeting the target of at least 85% gigabit-capable coverage across the country by 2025.

As referenced in the letter from the DCMS Permanent Secretary dated 25 March 2022, we have expanded and strengthened our quarterly reporting to include a more detailed breakdown of gigabit-capable broadband growth. The Spring Update provides information on coverage across the devolved nations and regions, in urban and rural areas, by supplier, and by residential and commercial premises. It also includes an update on policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives designed to facilitate the build of gigabit capable networks.

As well as the quarterly reports we publish to communicate progress on the level of gigabit coverage, we have also committed to publish an annual Performance Report. The first report will be published in July 2022, reporting on BDUK's performance in 2021-22. In subsequent years, the Performance Report will form part of our Annual Report and Accounts to be laid before Parliament and published each Summer.

Separately, I also wanted to share <u>BDUK's Corporate Plan for 2022-23</u>, which we published at the end of April. Our Corporate Plan sets out BDUK's key objectives, milestones and measures for the delivery of gigabit broadband and mobile connectivity for the financial year ending March 2023. The plan also includes BDUK's gigabit delivery trajectory against the



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government's target to ensure that 85% of UK premises have a gigabit capable connection by the end of 2025.

As a newly established Executive Agency, BDUK will build on the successes we have achieved as part of DCMS, and we will continue to drive forward the expansion of the UK's gigabit and mobile connectivity upgrades.

Yours sincerely,

Par Nomi

Paul Norris Chief Executive Officer Building Digital UK