HELEN WHATELY MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Baroness Lloyd of Effra
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Digital Economy);
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
100 Parliament Street
London. SW1A 2BQ

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Dear Baroness Lloyd,

Thank you for your letter today providing an update on Project Gigabit in my constituency.

I am shocked that CityFibre's contract in Kent has been reduced from up to 50,000 premises to just 9,000, and that this will mean that parts of my constituency are therefore now facing an additional three year wait for a decent broadband connection. This is unacceptable.

You may not be aware of the challenges that my constituents in Throwley and Wichling have faced in securing gigabit-capable broadband but I have raised their situation with your predecessors on multiple occasions over recent years. I have had many meetings with Ministers, BDUK, and most recently CityFibre about my constituents in these areas who have been failed time and time again. This contract was a firm promise made to my constituents—and yet this government has now let them down.

I campaigned hard with local residents for Throwley and Wichling to be included in this contract and so it is bitterly disappointing and hugely frustrating to be back to square one. Will there be compensation made available to my constituents given that they have been provided with such misleading information?

With CityFibre's commitment being reduced to less than 20% of the original contract, I would be grateful if you could confirm that they will only be paid for that portion of the contract. And what then is happening to the remaining value of the contract? Will that still be used to provide broadband to my constituents?

I urge you to find a solution for my constituents as soon as possible and would be grateful if you would meet with me to discuss my specific concerns.

Yours Ever,



Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent
Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

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If you would like to find out more about what I am doing in Faversham and Mid Kent, please do sign up to my newsletter on my website.

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