



# Full-fibre broadband for all

Steve Unger

A major strategic shift will encourage the roll-out of new 'fibre to the premise' networks to homes and businesses

*Ofcom, DCR, Feb 2016*

Virgin Media is putting its money where its mouth is and laying fibre to the premise

*Tom Mockridge, Virgin Media, April 2016*

Through the Fibre First programme, Openreach is getting on with the job of building an Ultrafast Britain

*Clive Selley, Openreach, Feb 2018*

We want to go further, faster – and have set an ambitious target for 15 million premises to be connected to full fibre by 2025, with nationwide coverage by 2033.

*Jeremy Wright, DCMS SoS, FTIR, July 2018*

As a deadline, that is laughably unambitious. If we want to unite our country and our society, we should commit now to delivering full fibre to every home in the land not in the mid 2030s – but in five years at the outside.

*Boris Johnson, June 2019*

British Broadband will oversee a publicly-owned full-fibre network and deliver free broadband to every home, with a phased roll-out over ten years. To do that we will bring the relevant parts of BT, including Openreach, into public ownership

*Jeremy Corbyn, Nov 2019*

Why do we have poor availability of full fibre today?

What's currently being done to address this?

Is a more radical approach feasible and desirable ?

We've been able to deploy full fibre for 30 years



# IEE NEWS

11 May 1989 No.24

## BT plans 'fibre to the home' trial

by Bill Jones

British Telecom chose the 2nd IEE National Conference on Telecommunications to give the first public description of its plans for a trial of integrated optical-fibre systems in residential and small-business premises. Tom Rowbotham, director of network technology at BT's Martlesham Research Laboratories, explained that the various regulatory bodies had now given approval in principle, allowing detailed development to proceed in BT and the manufacturing companies involved: STC, BICC, GPT and Fulcrum.

"BT's vision of the future UK telecommunications infrastructure comprises an all-fibre, all-digital, highly integrated broadband network"

*T R Rowbotham, BT Research Labs, 1989*

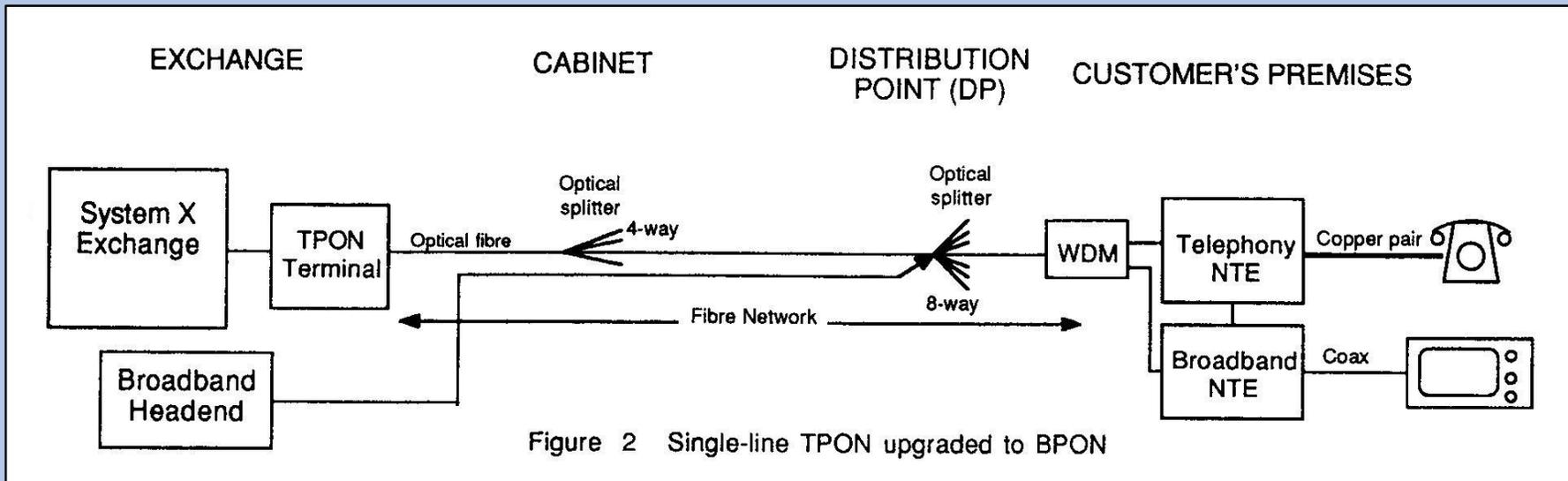
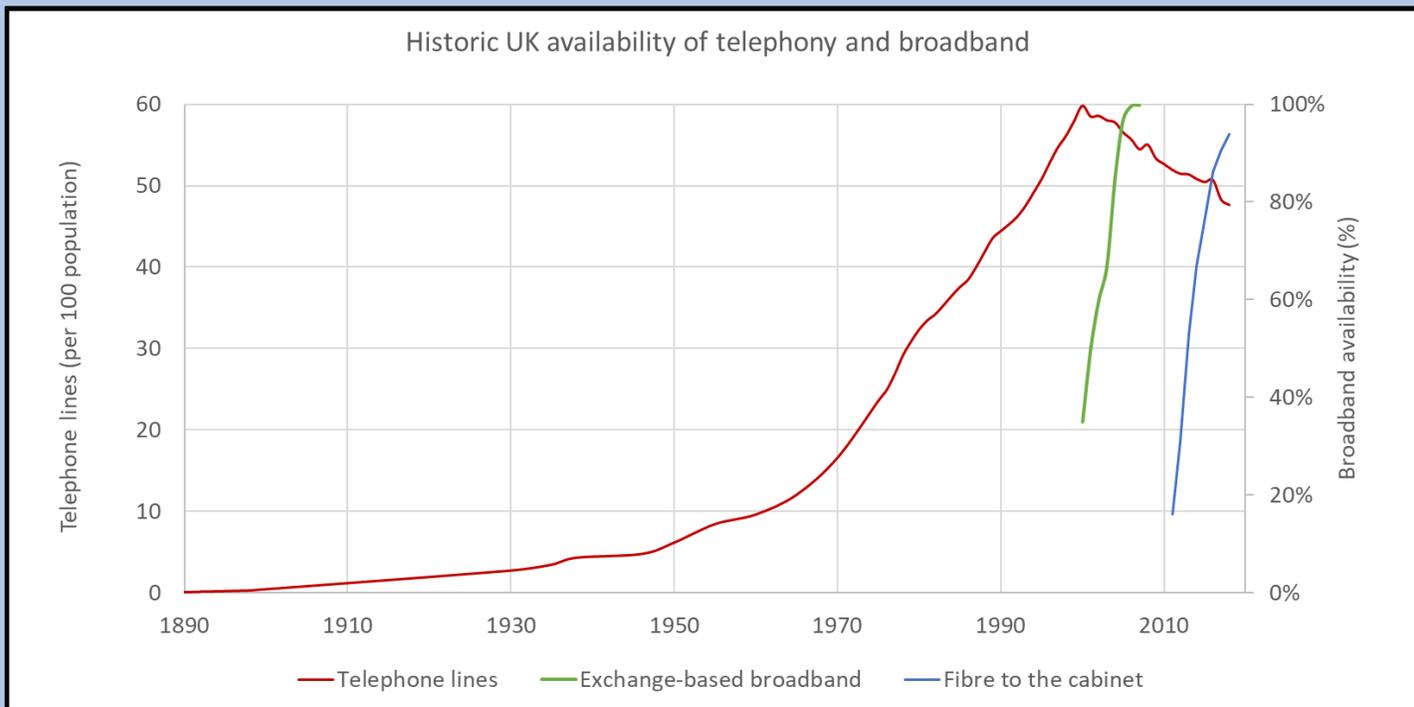


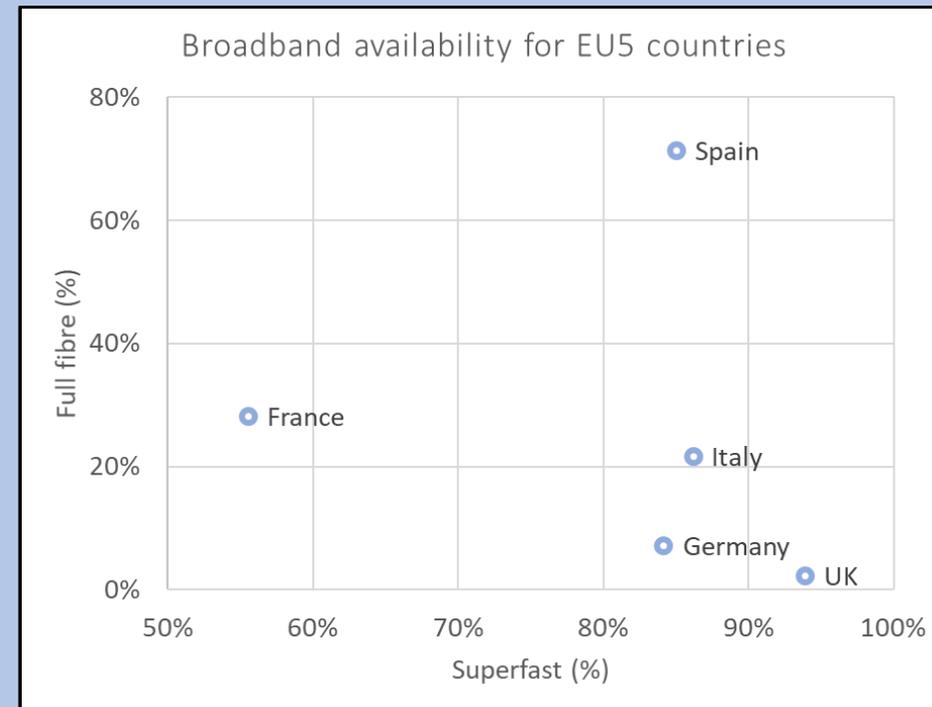
Figure 2 Single-line TPON upgraded to BPON

(Source: *Plans for a British Trial of Fibre to the Home*, T R Rowbotham, 1989)

# But copper-based broadband reached more people, faster



Sources: ITU (Telephone lines), Ofcom (Broadband availability)



*Broadband coverage in Europe 2017, Report to the European Commission by IHS Markit and Point Topic*

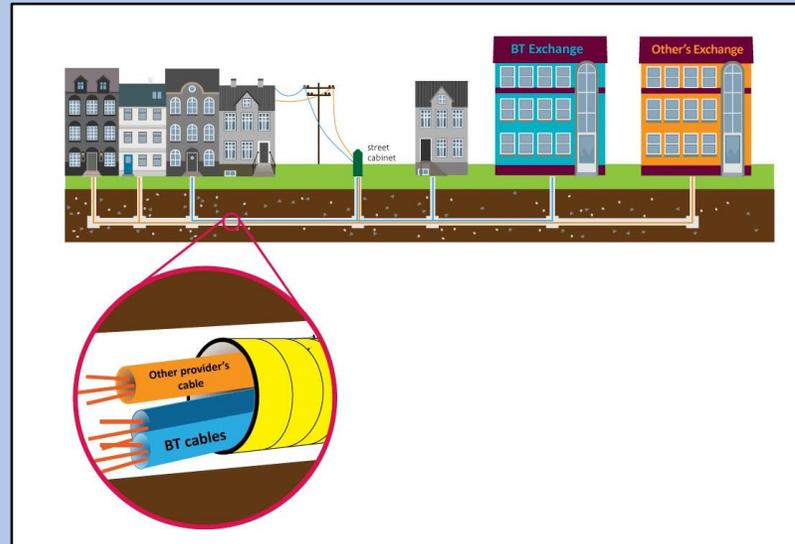


# What's already being done ?

A more independent Openreach focussed on full-fibre deployment



Competition in full-fibre broadband based on sharing of ducts and poles



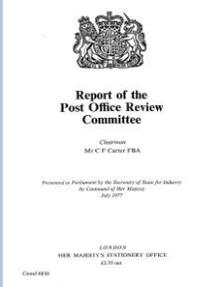
Additional funding for rural broadband



# Breaking ground



# Would public ownership help ?



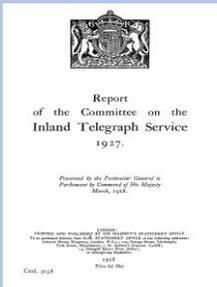
*System X is clearly a 'make or break' project for the United Kingdom. The time scale is critical... the biggest risks of all lie in the management of the project, and it is here that we find a major cause for worry... This project is falling behind, retarded by a complex apparatus of committees and discussions*

*Report of the Post Office Review Committee 1977*



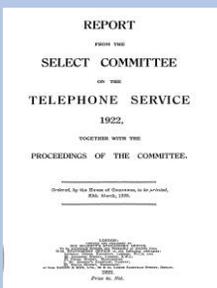
*The other most serious defect we think is the fact that all the Post Office profits are taken by the Treasury. This removes from the Post Office a natural incentive to progress and economy*

*Committee of Enquiry on the Post Office 1932*



*... evidence was given by practical telegraph men that on the assumption of a free hand as in a commercial enterprise... savings varying from 20 percent to one third of operating staff costs could be made*

*Report of the Committee on the Inland Telegraph Service 1927*



*Your Committee considers that the re-organisation of the telephone administration on more commercial lines is the fundamental requirement for efficient development, and that if it is carried out wisely it will prove a solution of most of the failings which have been disclosed*

*Report from the Select Committee on the Telephone Service 1922*

Free broadband for all? or affordable broadband for all?



Questions ?

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