



NEIL PARISH

Member of Parliament for Tiverton & Honiton

Keri Denton
Head of Service for Economy, Enterprise and Skills
Devon County Council
AB2 Lucombe House
Topsham Road
EX2 4QD

22nd October 2018

Dear Ms Denton,

As Devon and Somerset MPs, we know the transformational impact superfast broadband will have in the constituencies we represent.

Indeed, many families and businesses, across our region, are already benefitting from superfast upload and download speeds. But many others aren't. And it's those, particularly in rural areas, who are being left behind as the country moves online.

In July 2018, meetings with Gigaclear confirmed they were behind schedule on Phase 2 delivery, but representatives promised they would catch up with delays and deliver on time. In October, just last week, it was confirmed this would no longer be the case, as Gigaclear were in 'significant delay'.

This is clearly not good enough. As MPs, we have fought tooth and nail to deliver central government funding for CDS projects. We have given CDS time and patience against our better judgement. We have lobbied commercial providers to get better broadband services to our constituents. We have tussled with a myriad of bureaucratic obstacles, including state aid rules and business contracts, to try and find solutions for our constituents.

Unfortunately, there is nothing superfast about the CDS rollout programme. In fact, its lack of resource and inflexibility, have served on many occasions to delay better broadband for our constituents. A dearth of transparency, slow action and a poor level of contact with CDS and their chosen contractors have left Devon and Somerset residents in the dark. They deserve better.

It is time for CDS to take responsibility now, fund an interim solution, redeploy Gainshare funds and immediately extend the Voucher Scheme for our constituents.

We cannot and will not continue to make excuses for the dire performance of CDS and its contractors.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Parish MP
James Heapey MP
Sir Hugo Swire MP

Anne Marie Morris MP
David Warburton MP

Rebecca Pow MP
Gary Streeter MP