

A hand holding a smartphone, with the screen reflecting light. The background is a bokeh of colorful lights in shades of blue, green, and orange. A large white circle is in the top left corner.

The public benefit of

mobile connectivity.

The evolution of mobile connectivity.

The demand for faster and improved mobile connectivity continues to grow. Most of us rely on having mobile phones and devices 24/7, which provides us with many benefits.

Since the launch of 2G in 1991, the mobile generation is firmly established. Not only has it provided a way to communicate with each other and exchange information, but it has given individuals and businesses an innovative platform to do much more. Over the years, we have seen 3G and 4G, and now we have been introduced to 5G. The differences between the generations have provided us with higher speed, better connection, and many more advanced features on our mobiles. Now with 5G, we can expect to experience an even more extensive range of telecommunication services.



1G

Mobile
voice only



2G

Calls
and texts



3G

Data
services



4G

High-speed
internet access



5G

Faster connection,
enhanced data services



Connecting you to what matters.

Access to a reliable mobile network has become a necessity for many of us. Some of the key benefits it provides us with are:

- Connecting with family, friends, and colleagues at any time around the world
- Giving the ability to manage our personal information 24/7
- Keeping us always entertained and informed with the latest news
- Creating more productive and cost efficiencies for businesses

The economic benefit

- Businesses offering online services can extend their products to a broader audience
- Local areas and businesses can benefit from tourists and visitors as hotels, attractions, and restaurants can be booked online from anywhere in the world
- Business owners and services like doctors can provide a faster and more cost-effective service by offering both online appointments and ordering
- Digital connectivity facilitates economic growth, something which the Government is keen to progress and promote

The social benefit

- Mobile communications can help people to stay in touch wherever and whenever, which can help improve social wellbeing
- Contacting emergency services is easier, especially in remote areas
- Using a mobile wherever you go can provide better personal security
- Having access to social networking sites and applications can keep people entertained with their lifestyles and interests
- Mobile connectivity helps promote smarter and productive ways of working. For example, working from home can help minimise commuting which can provide better work and home life balance
- Access to personal information 24/7, e.g. bank accounts, can offer efficiency and convenience

5G is the next generation of mobile connectivity, providing us with a new level of experience. It will offer immense opportunities, given the faster and more reliable connectivity that it will provide. We will experience new technologies that will help us become more efficient and save costs as an individual or business.

What can we expect from 5G?

- Driverless vehicles – this will give drivers autonomy to do other things while driving
- Advanced healthcare facilities – performing surgeries remotely will be made possible, along with freeing up more GP time through better online facilities
- Enhanced Virtual and Augmented reality (AR) – used in gaming and entertainment already, with 5G, live interactions will be taken to the next level
- Greater Internet of Things (IoT) transformation – with better connected devices, the IoT will enable us to control devices more independently
- Cutting-edge agricultural operations – operating farming machinery and tools remotely will promote smart agriculture, saving time and increasing productivity for farmers

These are just some highlights of how the public benefits from mobile phones and what 5G will offer. But what's also essential is reliable mobile coverage and connectivity. Without this, we are at risk of not being able to use our phones or maximise it's potential if we experience poor coverage or no signal.

What do we need to enable mobile connectivity in the UK?

To maintain and improve mobile connectivity, it is crucial to recognise that this is only possible with the continuous deployment of mobile infrastructure throughout the UK. Mobile infrastructure (or masts as you might know them) can be placed on rooftops, greenfield sites, and street-works.

As the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company, Cornerstone works with landowners, institutions, and public authorities to place mobile equipment on sites to enable telecom operators to deliver mobile services to the public.

With more advanced technology now available, placing mobile infrastructure has become even more necessary. To achieve this is a collaborative effort between telecoms, the legal & property industry, and landowners, and requires everyone to work together.

Recognising this, the Government introduced an updated version of the Electronic Communications Code (ECC) in December 2017, to help support the roll-out of mobile infrastructure. Ofcom also issued an ECC Code of Practice to help guide operators and landlords with site dealings and negotiations. Since the introduction of the new ECC, many landlords have been agreeing leases using the Code principles. This has helped operators and landlords, guiding them through the process and ultimately playing a key role in enabling mobile connectivity.

Working together

The future for digital connectivity in the UK lies in many of our hands. The telecom operators are constantly developing new technologies to provide better mobile services to the public in rural and urban areas. However, landlords play a crucial part in building the network too, allowing mobile infrastructure to be placed on their site. Without infrastructure, providing a mobile network to the public isn't possible, which would affect all of us as individuals and businesses.

We need to continue to work together to enable the opportunities that mobile technology brings to all of us.



Proud to be delivering sites for the
future of UK mobile connectivity.



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