

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 312

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 31/03//2017

Topic: SIP – Choice of Technology

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

The draft Bill provides the SIP with flexibility in the technology it uses to connect premises. Does this mean it is possible some new premises in the fixed line footprint would be connected with FTTN and be considered adequately served?

Answer:

The exposure draft of the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer) Bill 2017 provided that a Statutory Infrastructure Provider (SIP) would need to be able to deliver a wholesale fixed-line services that support retail services with a download speed of normally 25Mbps or more. Such speeds can be delivered by a range of fixed-line technologies including fibre to the node (FTTN).

As noted in the response to questions 311, if the required speed is provided, then the SIP would be meeting its obligation and the area could be considered to be ‘adequately served’. However, ‘adequately served’ has a particular and broader meaning under the 2012 Adequately Served Policy and should not be confused with this.