International Broadband Scorecard

Notification of proposed cessation of publication

Consultation

Published 19 December 2023
Closing date for responses: 29 January 2024

Overview

Ofcom has been publishing The International Broadband Scorecard (and its predecessor The European Broadband Scorecard) since 2013. The Scorecard is intended to document aspects of fixed and mobile broadband performance across countries for the purpose of measuring and comparing the UK's relative performance.

The International Broadband Scorecard was proposed by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), now Building Digital UK, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, and its intended purpose was to assess progress towards the UK Government's ambition to have the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

As Ofcom only collects data from UK telecoms operators, data from the Scorecard is sourced from a third party provider which is appointed following a competitive tender process. The current supplier is global research company Omdia-Informa Tech. Ofcom supplements this data with a comparatively small amount of data regarding the UK market and international price comparisons.

We are proposing to stop publishing The International Broadband Scorecard, meaning that the December 2023 report, covering 2022 measurements, will be the final Scorecard.

> **What we are proposing – in brief**
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> We are proposing to:
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> • Conclude Ofcom's International Broadband Scorecard reporting, after the publication of the report based on 2022 data.
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> More information about our proposal is available below. If you would like any more details, or if the conclusion of the International Broadband Scorecard will cause any problems for your organisation, please email MID@ofcom.org.uk by 29 January 2024.

Background

Ofcom has published The International Scorecard (and previously The European Broadband Scorecard) since 2013. The research was originally initiated to provide evidence of progress towards the UK Government's ambition at the time that the UK should have the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

In producing the Scorecard, Ofcom currently repurposes data purchased from Omdia-Informa Tech with some adjustments to the UK data to ensure consistency with Ofcom data included in other Ofcom publications such as Communications Market Reports and Connected Nations reports, and the addition of international price data.

We have reviewed Ofcom's programme of telecoms-related research and publications, in doing so seeking to identify areas we can make more efficient use of our resources and improve our ability to inform Ofcom's policy work and identify areas of potential consumer harm. This enables us to support Ofcom's priorities and contribute to improved consumer outcomes in areas such as pricing and affordability.

As UK data will continue to be available in other Ofcom publications and international data is available from Omdia-Informa Tech and similar telecoms research companies (albeit for a fee), it is

Ofcom's view that stopping the publication of the International Broadband Scorecard will not hinder stakeholders' ability to benchmark the UK broadband market internationally.

Ofcom's Connected Nations research will continue to report on progress in the availability of broadband services in the UK, including the roll-out of gigabit-capable and full-fibre networks, and we will continue to compare UK prices with those in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the US in our [Pricing Trends for Communications Services](#) reports.

Proposed change

Ofcom is proposing to conclude publication of the International Broadband Scorecard after the publication of the Scorecard based on 2022 measurements, in December 2023.

> **We would like your views**
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> If you would like any further information or if you would like to highlight any concerns for Ofcom's consideration regarding the International Broadband Scorecard, please email MID@ofcom.org.uk by 29 January 2024.