

“I am very sorry I cannot be at the meeting and I wish all the best in terms of the presentation and the petition handover to government. **Since making the public statement in May, I have now been in direct contact with SpaceX and I have held a Teams meeting with them w/c 8th July to discuss provision in the Falkland Islands.** However, it is clear that the two asks in the petition are for the Falkland Islands government to consider and respond to.

As I said in a recent email exchange with Simon, from my perspective it is access to properly affordable superfast broadband, whilst maintaining the universal service offer (as well as reliable other telecoms services) that should be our aim. I am less bothered about who the provider should be other than the need for reliability but I completely understand why people have become so frustrated with Sure, and with FIG for entering into and maintaining an agreement that has effectively fixed things for so long.

MLAs have been clear with the public service that telecoms is one of two priorities that they have set and we are very clear of the need to demonstrate improvement for the whole community.

Finally I would just say that I welcome the community activism on the issue, it is a sign of a healthy democracy for us to have public debate in this way and I look forward to continue working with colleagues taking forward solutions on my return to the Islands.”