

Evidence based Policy formation

What Evidence is being presented to the Officials and are we learning from the positive experience of Wi-Fi to date?

Evidence based Policy formation

Give the Citizen the bandwidth and the tools to solve their connectivity challenges in their homes, business and their community.

Tom Smyth

- Owner operator of Wireless Connect Ltd. a SME Fixed Wireless Access (FWA), Fiber To The Whatnot FTTX operator established 2006.
- Volunteer representative SME Internet service provider (ISPs) in Ireland and EU.
- Work with other SME bodies and stakeholders..

Top Down Vs Bottom Up

Give the Citizen the bandwidth and the tools to solve their connectivity challenges in their homes, business and their community.

Who's Spectrum, is it ?

It's our spectrum we just don't like filling out forms



5GHz and 5.8GHz (irl / UK) opened doors

50+ SME FWA ISPs founded in Ireland in the early to
mid Naughties

5GHz and 5.8GHz (.ie / UK) enable local Connectivity

By 2019, over 100,000 Subscribers connected in rural Ireland. Vs Licensed Operator 25k-30K

Ireland's Top-down Approach to Internet access

Journey started in 2014 with €500million budget.
Contract signed in 2019 €2.7Billion State aided.

NBP first subscribers Connected in 2021

€5,500 per premises passed, 18.3K per premises
Connected. (30% uptake)

NBP subscribers 98k Connected as of 2024

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Connected.

SME FWA ISPs + WIFI Delivering up to 250 Mb/ as of 2019

- 100k+ Subscribers served by circa 30 FWA ISPs (regional) Local expertise
- Could not do this without Wi-Fi and License Exempt Spectrum
- 0 cost to taxpayer
- Time to market way faster than any government subsidised intervention
- SMEs FWA ISPs who invested in License exempt technologies had better outcomes in terms of coverage and capacity

We can all learn from this.

- We need more problem solvers to the tapestry of connectivity challenges in Europe.
- Use standard market measurements Supply vs Demand to determine Market Failure
- Intervene in genuine Market Failure. Rather than precipitate it.
- Give more spectrum to more people to reach the 2030 Digital Decade Policy Program targets.
- FWA can do more with more spectrum.
- Wi-Fi is an accessible standard, it is simple from a user perspective and is far simpler than some of the alternative uses of the same spectrum.

AFC and 6GHz standard power

- Automated Frequency Coordination is a model that we believe protects incumbent users sufficiently and enables greater use of the Band.
- We want to see more of these enabling larger coverage areas for clients.
- Wi-Fi is a simple accessible solution for SMEs to solve problems for Consumers, Communities and enterprise.
- Question and challenge the logic of handing spectrum to 2-3 market operators across Europe. Rather than giving it to 450 million citizens across EU

Looking forward.

- Empower Local problem solvers to deal with the hardest to reach customers.
- Focus more on outcome for citizens /user first.
- We want to see more of these enabling larger coverage areas for clients.
- Wi-Fi is a simple accessible solution for SMEs to solve problems for Consumers, Communities and enterprise.
- Is it logical to U6GHz spectrum to 2-3 market operators across Europe.
- Better give it to 450 million citizens across EU