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Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 4:56 PM
To: Trish Cleland <Trish.Cleland2@comcom.govt.nz>; Jordan Hamilton <Jordan.Hamilton@comcom.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Commerce Commission - Draft Information Request - Rural Connectivity Study

FYI



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From: Kate Robinson
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Good afternoon,

As you are aware, we are conducting our Rural Connectivity Study under 9a of the Telecommunications Act 2001, the details of which have been published in the Terms of Reference [here](#).

After initial consultation with the sector, we are pleased with the general support for the Study based on the proposed dataset and the value this will provide.

We've listened to feedback in relation to sensitivity of some of the data being sought. We want to provide assurance that the way we use the data to inform our study will be aggregated, and no individual customer information will be released – including to government departments. Should there be an OIA request, we would not release anything without talking to the source of the information first.

We are also conscious that collecting this new data ties into the annual monitoring data we collect each year. The 2022 Annual Monitoring Report, recently released, included a rural chapter for the first time, which we think helps tell an important story about rural connectivity in New Zealand. The gaps identified in this chapter are what we seek to fill in with the more granular detail, and this will allow us to differentiate between urban and rural areas, building a more complete picture about rural connectivity in NZ.

For this year's Industry Questionnaire, we are combining the data requests for the standard Annual Industry Questionnaire and the Rural Connectivity Study and will split the request as follows:

- We will ask for connections and customer information, as a data file first, as part of this information request. This will allow us to complete more detailed analysis for the Annual Monitoring Report.
- We will then issue our Annual Industry Questionnaire, and it will only request information we have not already collected, such as revenue.

By combining the two data requests, this will also ensure that we are not duplicating information requests as common information can be collected at the same time. We hope that this will reduce the burden on the suppliers of this information. We also believe that by asking for more granular data for the Annual Monitoring Report, more of the analysis currently completed by suppliers can be done by the Commission.

We understand that there may be constraints around the data that we are seeking to inform this study. The draft information request is attached and we request any feedback in writing by **3 July 2023**. We will issue the final information request following consideration of the feedback received.

You will also see in the draft request that we would like you to send a sample data file of 5 records to us before 3 July. Information on how to do this will be shared in due course. We understand that confidentiality is paramount and the submission process will reflect that.

We are proposing to allow 4 weeks for the submission of the data requested in the information requests and will take feedback on this allowance.

If you have anything that you wish to clarify or discuss, please contact **John Gandy** in the first instance.

Thanks,
Kate



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