

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Ed Vaizey MP
Minister for Culture, Communications and
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department for
culture, media
and sport

Your Ref:
Our Ref: 231634

John Hayes MP
House of Commons
London
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10 February 2011

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January to the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mr John Petters of 218 New House Farm, Hospital Drove, Long Sutton, Spalding PE12 9EN, about power line telecommunications (PLT). I am replying as the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries.

The Coalition Government recognises that PLT devices can give out radio emissions and that in a limited number of cases this has caused interference to radio services. We and Ofcom continue to monitor this and ensure that such interference remains limited and occasional.

In order to be sold in the UK market, PLT equipment must conform to the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Regulations 2006. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) has oversight of the EMC Regulations and Ofcom is responsible for their enforcement where there is a radio spectrum protection or management issue. The EMC Regulations set out key minimum (essential) requirements about the level of electrical disturbance from equipment, with which a person must comply or risk criminal proceedings. If we ascertain that the PLT market is developing in such a way that the level of interference becomes undesirable then we will instigate appropriate action in conjunction with Ofcom.

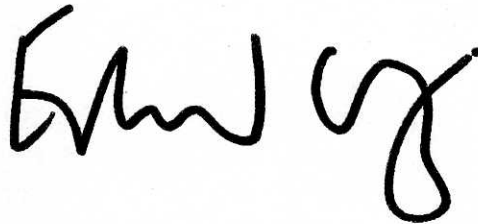
I can assure you that any instances of interference into radio services are taken seriously and that Ofcom will continue to investigate and take action on a case-by-case basis. Ofcom is also working to reduce any negative effects of PLT in individual cases with BT, the largest supplier, and with Comtrend UK Ltd which supplies the apparatus as part of the BT Vision package.



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BIS recognises that PLT is an evolving technology and will continue to monitor developments, taking advice from Ofcom where appropriate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Vaizey', written in a cursive style.

ED VAIZEY MP
Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries