

Consultation 1/2025: Stakeholder Submissions

The Office of the Adjudicator-Broadcast Transmission Services (OTA-BTS Ltd) was set up as a requirement of the Competition Commission’s report into the merger of Arqiva and NGW in 2008. The purpose and functions of the Office are set out in the Undertakings <https://ota-bts.org.uk/the-undertakings/>

Paragraph 17 of Appendix 1 to the Undertakings requires Ofcom to set an annual budget for the operation of OTA-BTS. Among other matters, the Undertakings set out that the “budget will be for an amount sufficient in the view of Ofcom alone to enable the Adjudicator properly to discharge his functions in an effective and timely manner”. They also require Ofcom to consult with the Adjudicator, Arqiva and its customers in ways it considers appropriate.

Three stakeholders made submissions during Ofcom’s consultation process.

Arqiva
D34

A third stakeholder made a confidential submission.

Ofcom is grateful for the comments, observations and questions. It has taken the submissions into account in setting the Annual Budget for the year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

D34’s submission is published at:

<https://ota-bts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/D34-response-to-consultation-1-2025.pdf>.

Arqiva has provided this non-confidential summary.

Arqiva noted the significant uplift from the previous budget and asked various questions on the draft budget. The areas of focus included: i) staffing and consultancy in connection with understanding the proposed roles and timing of any reviews better so as to promote efficiency and avoiding overlap between roles; ii) office rental from Ofcom including the nature of changes and negotiation; iii) insurances; and iv) contingencies given the existing contingency of £470,000. Ofcom has confirmed it is comfortable with the approach on staffing and consultancy and that this is being managed efficiently; the office rental discussions are ongoing and are being managed on an arm’s length basis; the insurances reflect the current structure; and the budget will be adjusted slightly to take account of the feedback without the need for an additional contingency line on top of the existing contingency.

The approved Annual Budget for 2025/26 has been published on the OTA-BTS website at:

<https://ota-bts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Budget-Publication-Consultation-1-2025.pdf>

9 March 2025