

Good afternoon sue,

I'm afraid your argument in support of the poles doesn't quite add up. Leaving the existing copper wire aside as that is not an issue, you say that your team tell you that the new fibre cable cannot be buried because it is glass and can't be dug directly into the ground. Put it in a duct, its simple really, I'm surprised your management haven't thought of that.

The concern it seems is that the glass fibre optic cable could be easily broken underground, if that's the case and the cable is so fragile, good luck during the coming winter when the cable hanging off these poles is battered by the wind, rain and ice. Don't think a fragile glass cable will last long, do you?

Does this also mean that to get a fibre optic cable to my house for example the cable will be hung from a pole (yet to be erected in my street) to my house at high level and then brought into my house? If not it must be being buried underground, in fact engineers recently installed ducting or connections in the pavement outside my driveway for the futureproofing for fibre optic cable which is soon to be available, obviously at some point then the fibre optic cable becomes super strong because it can be installed underground. Why not use that cable everywhere.

Now correct me if I am wrong but Openreach / BT have a considerable infrastructure of ducting throughout this village and no doubt most villages in Scotland. Why can the fibre optic cable not be drawn through these ducts to the point it is required to be terminated in one of the many green boxes in the village? This also raises the following question – how is the main cable being fed from the main exchanges to all the villages, towns and cities in Scotland, are we going to see a massive increase in wooden poles along every main road to bring fragile fibre optic cables. Probably not as the cables will be underground in ducts and our side streets are currently being dug up to install ducting or cable at present.

So far probably 90% of the poles erected are on soft landscaped areas that are under EDC control, which are unlikely to have ducts underground. In that case as they are soft landscaped areas it would be fairly simple to dig a trench, lay a duct or even lay a split duct which would allow the cables to be installed at the same time as the excavation progresses and backfills. Obviously though that is just more expensive than installing unsightly poles every 25m without even the slightest thought about the people that need to look at them every day.

The crux of this matter is that; from what I can gather; you are massively behind programme for installing fibre optic to all homes in Scotland and in order to speed up the process you have decided to take the faster and cheaper option of resorting to poles and overhead cables. Is there a penalty from the government by any chance for not meeting programme and targets?

You note that effort is made to install these poles in the most appropriate location, why then are they not installed at the junction of two gardens instead of dead centre of one garden, or is that so that only one person complains and not two.

Why for once does a large corporate entity just tell own up and admit that the poles are the most economical method, it is absolutely nothing to do with fragile fibre optic cables, if they were so fragile you wouldn't be installing them overhead on poles.

Oh well there goes another Forrest, nice to see Openreach doing its bit for the environment and combating global warming.

Kind Regards,

**Brian J McFall**  
**Secretary - MOCCC**