

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

held on Wednesday 12 January 2024 at 14:30 in the Liberation Room, Secretariat

<b>Present:</b>	Andy Keeling	CE	Chief Executive (Chair)
	Steve Dent	DDDCS	Deputy Director of Development & Commercial Services
	Matt Mitchell	CIO	Chief Information Officer
	Ian Stewart	IS	Construction Sector
	Justin McPhee	JMP	Sure
	Roma Stewart	RS	Sure, Rep No 2
	Stephen Dougan	SD	BFSAI
	Mhari Eccles	ME	Chamber Technology/Retail Lead (Gareth Goodwin deputy)
	Paul Brickle	PB	SAERI
	Lewis Clifton	LC	Rural Business Association
	Pippa Christie	PC	FIPLA
<b>Apologies:</b>	Synergy Representative	SR	Community Representative
	Vacant	-	
	Gareth Goodwin	GG	Chamber Technology/Retail Lead
	Zachary Franklin	ZF	FIDC
	Karen Lee	KL	Falkland Islands Tourist Board
	Simon Young	aCR	Acting Communications Regulator
<b>Minutes:</b>	Tessa Berntsen	SOM	Secretariat Office Manager

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Action

## 1.0 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Before the meeting started CE noted that he had received apologies from ZF due to illness. Therefore, it was noted item 3 on the agenda would not be happening about would be deferred to another meeting.

CE explained that he would have to leave for an emergency board meeting that had been called, therefore DDDCS had agreed to chair the remainder of the meeting, and asked if anyone had anything to be raised while CE was in the room.

LC said that he had received a letter from MLA Pollard stating that there would be a detailed report going to TDG in terms of what FIG's focus would be going forward. CE noted that DDDCS would be giving an update however, it would be short as there had been a disconnect between MLAs and FIG officials on the TDG board. DDDCS asked LC to share a copy of the letter with him as he hadn't yet seen a copy. CoC Rep agreed to forward one on.

CE explained that the terms of reference were on the agenda, he noted that originally these were set as a group that received presentations and would move into the future direction of telecommunications, rather than just being about the internet provision.

LC asked if the TORs cover looking at telecoms as a whole would that mean the meeting would be looking at radio services, 2 meters as well, as the current TOR's were constrained to look at internet.

CE asked IS how his Starlink was and if it was living up to his expectation? IS noted that it was amazing, he explained that all of his devices had been updated and he said he was now even able to upload his files from the drone direct to the cloud whereas he hadn't been able to previously. He explained that speeds vary as it is based off a satellite but they were still higher than Sure could provide.

***CE left the meeting at 14:44***

**2.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**2.1** Page 1, Para 2 – It was noted that - “It should be extended to include FIFCA and FIDC.” – FIFCA should read FIPLA

**2.2** LC asked who ACR was. It was confirmed that it was Acting Communication Regulator and AG was Attorney General. He asked if there was a need to split them as in some parts of the minutes AG was referred to and in others ACR was. DDDCS explained that he would speak to ACR/AG and find out who it should be.

**3.0 FIDC Presentation**

**3.1** N/A due to illness, ZF sent apologies.

**4.0 Sure Update**

**4.1** JM noted that this would be his last update before he left Sure, while explaining that recruitment for his replacement was underway however, as there was likely to be a gap RS would be covering and had been going along to all meetings with him.

JM explained that the satellite works that should have been finished by the end of December had been delayed, due to the DHL backlog, explaining that the 9 boxes of essential equipment had been put on the ship and only arrived at the end of December.

IS asked if the new equipment would give a speed increase from the one-web. JM explained that currently these aren't connected to the Sure network, and wouldn't be until 20<sup>th</sup> January, with a plan to go live on the network at the end of February, but did note that this equipment wouldn't give extra speed. LC noted that he would like confirmation of what the investment is going to deliver? DDDCS explained that this would be seen from 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Fixed Wireless Access and Radio Upgrades:

JM noted that the team were working on the camp upgrade, although did note that there were some problems meaning there had been 5 patches required on 3 vendors.

Internet Utilisation:

JM noted that Facebook was still the highest usage, followed by Youtube, along with Netflix and then VPN traffic. JM explained that there were a number of projects in the plan, however, he thought it best to wait for his successor to look at what they would want to do.

DDDCS asked if the utilisation graph could be split for Stanley and Camp? JM didn't think it would be possible.

DDDCS asked if there were any questions for JM, there being none he thanked JM for his services with Sure and noted that he looked forward to seeing JM working for FIG.

## **5.0 Terms of Reference**

**5.1** PB noted that he thought there should be a footnote to say what telecommunications covers as he believed that the scope had changed over time. DDDCS noted that he thought the group was about all telecoms although, focused on the internet delivery. IS thought the group should also focus on the mobile service as well. LC noted that he believed that the group was to look at delivering telecoms island wide, which PB noted this argument would always come up until there is something defined by what is being covered within the group.

IS thought that it would be good for the meeting to know that FIG was taking note of every presentation that they viewed, as he believed that it had been clear over time what everyone wants and needs, but he did note that it was impossible to make FIG listen.

DDDCS noted that he would work on a definition of telecommunications, to give a very clear understanding for what the group would be working on.

It was decided that the meeting should be held quarterly with this timeline stuck to, and not allowed to slip as has been done previously.

SD also noted that he believed all agenda items should be delivered to the secretary 5 working days prior to the meeting.

DDDCS noted that he would work to clean up the TOR's and get them out by the following Monday or Tuesday, and then have the telecommunications definition following that.

It was confirmed that everyone was happy for these to be confirmed via email.

## **6.0 FIG Update on Work leading up to Sure contract end.**

**6.1** DDDCS noted that it was not realistic to give a route map for the time being and that DCS was working with the CIO to develop a detailed report to TDG. DDDCS noted that with expert advice it would be known what was being looked at by mid-2024. DDDCS and CIO both thought this timeline was reasonable.

DDDCS explained that he was committed to bringing a timeline as a minimum to the next meeting.

## **7.0 Any Other Business**

**7.1** IS gave an overview of his Starlink experience. He noted that the process to get a license is terrible, he thought how the form to get the actual license is written was outdated, and intended for the old fashioned VSAT licenses. He wasn't sure if that would be something the AG could update as that document had been approved by MLAs 8 years ago, but he thought it needed to be updated.

IS noted that he applied for the license at the end of June, and it took six months to receive the license which he thought was too long, the form states a response would be provided within 28 days for a VSAT so why would this be any different?

IS noted that after he received his license in December, he set up his dish, noting it was a plug and play piece of equipment.

IS thought there were black spots within the mobile network. JM explained that this would always be the case.

DDDCS took an action to request AG where the data and report from the broadband probes was, after JM confirmed this data was provided to the regulator when IS brought this issue up.

## **8.0 Confirmation of Date of Next Meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> April 1330-1530**