

CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS IMPACTS TRACKER

12 August 2020



The British Chambers of Commerce Coronavirus Business Impacts Tracker (CBIT) is the UK's largest independent business survey, tracking economic conditions on a fortnightly basis. In the latest tranche of data collection (20 - 24 July 2020), 517 businesses responded. 97% of the respondents were SMEs, 76% were in the service sector, and 24% were manufacturers.

The BCC and Mobile UK are calling on the government to work with industry leaders to bring forward urgently plans that will remove unnecessary barriers to improving coverage and enhancing data capacity.

MOBILE NETWORK USAGE



79%

expect to maintain or increase their lockdown levels of mobile-network usage over the next 12 months

MOBILE ACTIVITIES



67%

report increased activities that utilise mobile networks

ENHANCED MOBILE COVERAGE



59%

agreed that enhanced mobile coverage and data capacity would support their business to restart operations



“A reliable mobile phone signal is a basic requirement for any business. It has become even more critical since the Coronavirus pandemic.

“With a majority of firms expecting to continue working from home for the foreseeable future, and fewer employees commuting to city centres, it will be critical to accelerate solutions to improving areas with partial or no coverage to ensure that no business is left behind.

“Our research highlights the real opportunity for government to work with industry leaders and remove unnecessary barriers to upgrading vital infrastructure that can truly level up all regions of the UK.”

Claire Walker, Co-Executive Director of the British Chambers of Commerce



“The BCC'S COVID-19 tracker has clearly shown that changes to business practices, the so called new normal, are not simply a flash in the pan and increased mobile network usage is set to continue. It is therefore all the more important that changes that will break down barriers to building the necessary 4G and 5G infrastructure are brought forward. In particular planning proposals must be translated into legislative change this year, so that the economic recovery from COVID can be supported by world-class digital infrastructure.”

Gareth Elliott, Mobile UK Head of Policy and Communications

For more information please contact
Faye Busby, f.busby@britishchambers.org.uk