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Dear Rob

### **UNC MODIFICATION PROPOSAL 513**

With regard to the independent review of User readiness as set out in UNC Modification Proposal 513 (“Mod 513”), I would like to take this opportunity to provide Ofgem with an overview of the scope of assurance work being undertaken by Baringa Partners LLP (“Baringa”) in respect of Xoserve’s UK Link Programme (“UKLP”).

We appointed Baringa during 2013 to provide client side advisory services to UKLP, with an initial focus on supporting us through our vendor selection process. Baringa carried out an independent assessment of the sourcing process, and we distributed the Baringa Summary Report to Senior Stakeholder Forum (now Change Overview Board) and Project Nexus UNC Workgroup attendees on 25 January 2014.

As UKLP has subsequently progressed through its high level and detailed design stages, Baringa has continued to provide assurance on the completeness of system functionality and the rigour of plans through to UKLP completion. In direct response to stakeholder feedback, we have continued to provide information about our readiness through the Change Overview Board, the UK Link Engagement Forum and other events such as the UK Link Technology Day.

Baringa will provide its next assurance report following completion of detailed design, and we currently expect an external report to be published in late November 2014, which would complement the User assurance report proposed by Mod 513. We expect that Baringa will report on matters such as the completeness of detailed design, the UKLP risk profile and the integrity of our forward plans through to full delivery.

I trust that this overview will help to clarify the position regarding the independent assurance of Xoserve's UKLP activities, but please let me know if you require any further information.

I will also be asking the Joint Office to publish this letter so that it is available to UNC Panel members ahead of their teleconference at 12.30 on 5 September 2014 to consider the Mod 513 Final Modification Report.

Yours sincerely

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Head of Industry Engagement

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Copy to Les Jenkins, UNC Panel Chair