

Subject: Abolish or Reduce the VSAT Licence Fee and Approve Starlink Domestic Tariffs

We, the undersigned residents of the Falkland Islands, express our deep concern and outrage at the recent announcement by the Communications Regulator regarding VSAT Licences and the threat to prosecute Starlink users. Fast, reliable, and affordable internet access is a basic necessity in today's world, and it is vital for our community's connectivity, economy, and overall well-being.

Key Concerns:

1. **Fundamental Rights and Freedoms:** Our Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights and freedoms of every person in the Falkland Islands, including freedom of expression and freedom from interference with the rights to receive and disseminate information. These rights also extend to our correspondence and other means of communication.
2. **Disproportionate Licence Fees:** The current £5,400 annual licence fee for using alternative internet providers like Starlink is based on Sure's most expensive package and is excessively high. This fee, coupled with the threat of punitive fines up to £125,000, is effectively a ban for most residents on using alternative internet providers.
3. **Necessity in a Democratic Society:** Such exorbitant fees and fines cannot be justified as reasonably necessary in a democratic society. They restrict our ability to choose more affordable and reliable internet options, impacting our daily lives and freedoms.

Our Demands:

1. **Abolish or Reduce the Licence Fee:** We call on the Communications Regulator and MLAs to abolish the VSAT licence fee for using Starlink entirely. If a complete abolition is not feasible, we urge you to reduce the fee to a reasonable and proportionate level, not exceeding £180 per year.
2. **Approve Starlink Domestic Tariffs:** We also call on the Communications Regulator to grant regulatory approval for Starlink to offer domestic tariffs in the Falkland Islands. This would prevent residents from being forced to rely on the more expensive global roaming tariffs, making fast and reliable internet access more affordable for everyone.

By addressing these concerns, you will not only uphold our constitutional rights but also ensure that the residents of the Falkland Islands have access to the internet services they need and deserve.

