

Peter Culham

Associate

Email: hello@oxera.com

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7776 6600

Languages: English



Expertise

- Antitrust
- Market Investigations
- Regulation

Sectors

- Telecoms, Media and Technology

Profile

Peter is an experienced regulatory and competition economist who has spent the bulk of his career in the communications sector. He joined the Government Economic Service in 1979 and worked in a number of government departments including Transport, Environment and Defence, before joining Of tel, the UK telecoms regulator, in 1986.

At Of tel, Peter worked on a broad range of competition and regulatory issues in the telecoms sector, especially those relating to the promotion of competition and prevention of anticompetitive behaviour. He played a key role in the establishment of interconnection regimes and price controls, especially in the adoption of forward-looking cost methodologies in these areas. Peter became the Chief Economist of Of tel in 1998, a position he held until the formation of Of com in 2003. He joined Of com as the Director of Competition Economics, and became Chief Economist in 2005, a position he held until his retirement in 2018.

During his time at Of com, Peter was a member of the most senior policymaking body (the Policy Executive, becoming the Policy and Management Board) and had overall responsibility for all of the economic work conducted by Of com. Peter also contributed personally to a wide range of projects, including:

- the functional and legal separation of BT;
- economic principles to be applied in Competition Act investigations in the telecoms and postal sectors;
- the regulation of prices—this includes the development both of methodologies for establishing and using a RAV, and of methods combining incentives for efficiency with the opportunity for cost recovery, as well as the setting of prices in periods of technical transition ('the fair bet');
- the assessment of principles for two-way access pricing for fixed and mobile network call termination;

- the undertaking of market reviews, including assessments of dominance/SMP;
- issues relating to the cost of capital and the application of discount rates;
- broadcasting issues, including those relating to Ofcom's responsibilities for monitoring the behaviour of the BBC, together with Ofcom's application of its powers and duties to promote fair and effective competition in broadcasting;
- spectrum allocation and policy decisions, including the calculation of Annual Licence Fees;
- establishing Ofcom's approach to postal regulation when this was taken over by Ofcom.

Peter has given evidence on behalf of Ofcom in regulatory and competition proceedings at the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). He has also represented Ofcom at a number of regulatory and competition proceedings and conferences.

Since joining Oxera as an Associate, Peter has provided advice to clients on a number of regulatory and competition issues, including:

- advice to a telecoms operator building a fibre network on how to put its case to its regulator concerning price regulation and the need for a 'fair bet';
- advice to a telecoms operator on issues concerning the cost of capital;
- advice to a mobile operator defending itself against a finding of margin squeeze by a competition authority;
- advice to a postal operator on how to present its case to its regulator for compensation for the costs of its universal service obligation;
- advice to a regulator on how to assess the economic consequences of bill shock.

Qualifications

- MA Economics, University of Essex, UK