I understand your committee is investigating the broadband provision in Scotland and seeking input from the public. I therefore feel I must write to you and inform you of my experiences – and lack of provision.

I am the editor of a weekly newspaper and live five miles outside Cumnock in a rural location. In our small pocket there are five houses.

Because of the distance from the exchange there is no broadband provision whatsoever and I have to make do with dial-up – or narrowband, as BT like to put it. This, as you will understand, is next to useless in this day and age. The connection is unstable, it is slow and it is impossible to do anything that most other people take for granted – downloading files, tapping into iplayers etc.

I have been told that it is extremely unlikely that our section of East Ayrshire will EVER get land-based broadband provision and would have to rely on satellite. However, the costs of this are extremely high, not just for the hardware but also the monthly subscriptions.

The annoying thing is that broadband users in cities and towns can get a better service far more economically.

The Scottish Government did conduct a consultation two or three years ago into broadband provision and sought input from the public. I did not submit anything then as at the time both BT and Sky were insistent that I could receive broadband. It took many weeks before they had to admit defeat.

Naturally, I would like to step into the 21st Century and hope that your committee will be able to somehow help myself and other like me.