



The ban on Huawei
5G tech and the
implications for
digital transformation
initiatives in the UK



How will the government's decision to ban Huawei tech from mobile infrastructure impact digital transformation?

The UK's decision to ban Huawei's 5G kit from use in mobile networks has raised concerns about the potential impact on businesses planning to use private 5G networks as a part of their digital transformation strategy.

The positive news is that for those businesses looking to run their own private 5G network, the [government's advice](#) around restricting the use of high risk technology providers such as Huawei "does not apply to private networks, except where these networks are safety-related or safety-critical".

However this does not mean there aren't wider challenges. Estimates in the Financial Times suggest that the decision to ban Huawei has put widespread implementation of a fully-fledged UK 5G network back by around two years. At a time when we are seeing businesses trying to accelerate their digital transformation programmes in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, the delay in access to a countrywide 5G network will be a significant challenge. So whilst a business might not be directly impacted at a private network level, this won't mitigate upstream challenges by their network provider.

According to [IT Pro](#) although the measures will cause a delay to the UK's 5G rollout, it won't affect all mobile network operators equally. O2, for example, [uses no Huawei equipment in its 5G networks](#), while Three exclusively relies on Huawei. Vodafone and BT each rely on Huawei in part. So impact is likely to be patchy, and MNO-dependent.

UK businesses whose digital transformation strategy is in anyway 5G dependent probably need to be asking:

- *To what extent is consumer 5G access critical to my digital transformation programme / how can we mitigate delays to consumer 5G roll-out?*
- *If we are planning to use a private 5G network, which network operators / providers are least likely to be impacted by the Huawei ruling?*

Network operators themselves may well need to ask:

- *Are there specific sectors where delays to 5G roll-out are mission critical to their digital transformation plans?*
- *What actions will convince corporate clients that our network technology is secure?*
- *Do we need to future-proof current technology investment against further potential Chinese-supplier government restrictions?*

Thanks

Coleman Parkes Research



research@coleman-parkes.co.uk



(+44)203 078 7911



www.colemanparkes.com

