

Please find below our counter comments on the response of the other stakeholders:

1. Several stakeholders have opined that though offering Free WiFi is permissible currently, offering paid WiFi isn't allowed. One of the top PSU telecom company wants to exclusively restrict WiFi offering to ISP's; this is equivalent of introducing license in the de-licensed band. We strongly oppose any such measure of exclusivity which will take India back to the license raj. We believe that TRAI should allow competition from smaller players and allow them to even resell the internet bandwidth along with the WiFi software, to deepen the market and significantly improve the quality of WiFi service which some of the incumbent ISP's have failed to provide.
2. Stakeholders have given different views and ideas on creating unique id and password for WiFi users. We are strongly against allotting any new id or password for WiFi users. The OTP acts as a one time password and is sufficient for authentication. The mobile number can be linked to the existing id of the user like Aadhar, Email id, Passport, social media accounts like Facebook, Twitter, etc. or MAC address without creating any new id or password & with just an OTP verification. Further, if the user id & password is compromised, it may pose additional risks compare to an OTP verified along with any existing social id.
3. Stakeholders have opined on pay-per-use model for WiFi. We would request TRAI to release the statistics from each of these stakeholders on the number of users who actually pay at these hotspots compared to those who access. We are of the opinion that WiFi at public places hosted by the venues should be Free for the user and the service providers / venues would have to find other methods for monetisation of the WiFi. In the case of mobile offloading to WiFi, telecom companies can reduce the data used over WiFi from the subscribed plan of the users without charging them additional amount.