

# The Rollout of Fibre Broadband across Scotland

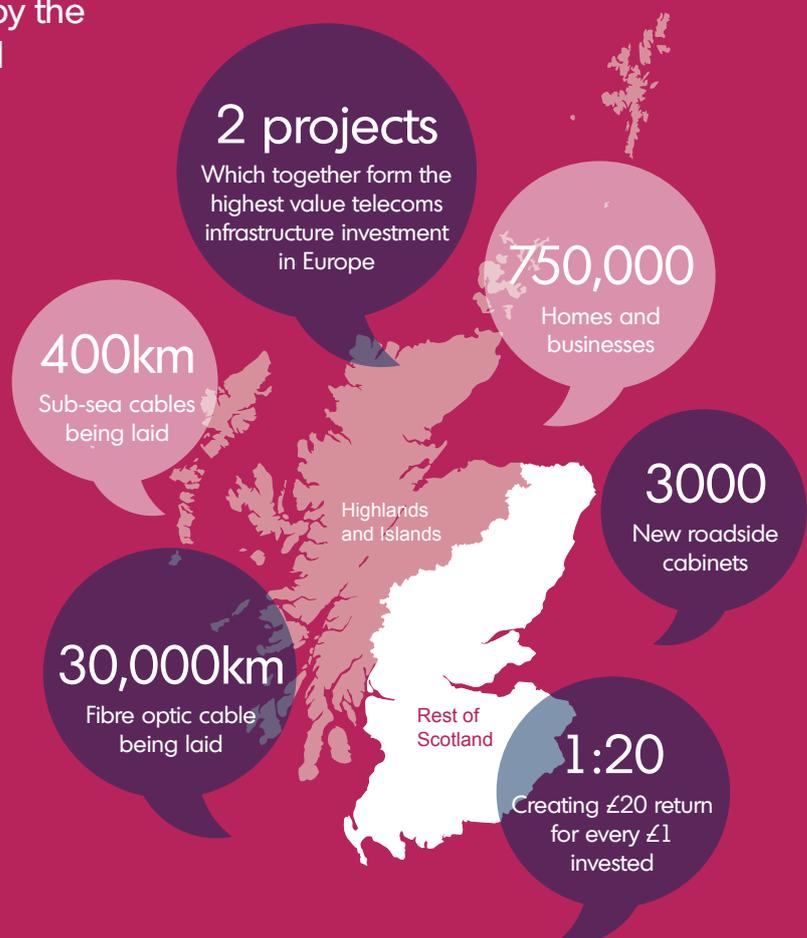
The Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme is bringing fibre broadband to the many areas of Scotland where it has not been viable for commercial operators to provide services. Thanks to this exciting programme, around 95% of homes and businesses will have access to fibre broadband by the time the programme is completed in March 2018.

Without the Digital Scotland programme, only 66% of homes and businesses in Scotland would have been able to access fibre broadband through commercial operators such as BT and Virgin.

This is the most ambitious rollout of fibre broadband in Europe and like any other huge infrastructure project, it cannot happen overnight.

Planning the rollout is incredibly complex as we want to make sure that every single household and business gets the best service possible. It is no exaggeration to say that the Openreach engineers are exploring all the options for just about every single set of premises in Scotland. It's clearly no small task!

In some ways, planning the rollout of fibre is like piecing together a massive jigsaw puzzle.



Delivering one of the biggest infrastructure projects in Europe is hugely complex and challenging. Extremely careful planning and decision making is needed in order for us to achieve our goal of improving internet speeds for as many people as possible within the available funding.

For some places, the decisions are easier, but for many places in Scotland, it's incredibly challenging.

And because the rollout is like putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle, it can appear bewildering to an outsider. It may be frustrating that some areas are enabled for fibre before others, or even that some parts of a town are enabled before others. It can be really confusing if your neighbour can get fibre broadband and you can't yet!

But the rollout of fibre is happening as fast as possible and it is happening in the sequence that will bring maximum benefits for all.

The most common way that fibre broadband is being brought to homes and businesses in Scotland is through 'fibre to the cabinet' (FTTC). This factsheet provides an overview of what happens behind the scenes when this is installed. However, in some cases where FTTC is not feasible for some reason, fibre will be laid all the way to the premises. This is called 'fibre to the premises' (FTTP). In addition, different arrangements need to be made for 'exchange only' (EO lines) and this is explained in more detail in a separate factsheet.

By March 2018, the giant jigsaw will be completed. Scotland will have a fibre broadband infrastructure with around 95% of households and businesses able to get fibre broadband.

### What is happening behind the scenes?

Here is an overview of what needs to happen to bring fibre to one or more street cabinets in an area. This helps explain why rolling out fibre broadband across Scotland is such a huge task and why it takes time. Once work has started in an area, it typically takes 12 months (and can be longer) before you will be able to place an order. And remember within an exchange area, there can be many fibre cabinets – each with its own installation journey and timescales.

#### Stage one: Design

Having decided that it is feasible to bring FTTC to an area, Openreach then look at how best to design the upgrade. Openreach create a blueprint that takes into account what exists and what is needed.

#### Stage two: Field Survey

Openreach then carry out a full on-the-ground survey of the area to make sure that their design plans will work in practice.

#### Stage three: Build

This is the start of the physical work in a community. The fibre cabinet is installed and fibre cable is brought to the area from the local telephone exchange. The fibre cable may be brought through the underground ducts or overhead on telegraph poles.

#### Stage four: Connect

The brand new fibre cabinet is now connected to the power supply and the fibre network, as well as to the existing copper cabinet which connects to your telephone line.

#### Stage five: Activation

Openreach carry out final quality checks and activate the connection.

So, as you can see, rolling out fibre broadband across Scotland takes time – but a world class fibre infrastructure is worth waiting for! To find out more about the plans for fibre broadband in your area, check out the interactive map on our website. And to understand more about the technical aspects of the fibre rollout and what it involves, visit [www.scotlandsuperfast.com](http://www.scotlandsuperfast.com)

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