Going further and faster with fibre

This summer holidays are almost upon us and hopefully most of us will be able to enjoy a few days break. Engineers will still be out deploying fibre for DSSB though - and fibre will continue to be deployed into rural Scotland through the DSSB programme.

As we reach the final stages of DSSB, we are reaching more remote locations, with more than 930,000 premises now able to get fibre broadband thanks to the programme. We're also deploying more fibre to the premises (FTTP) technology. FTTP is a pure fibre broadband connection that runs all the way from your local exchange right to your home or business. Where available, the local network is able to support download speeds of up to 1Gb and 50Mbps upload. (The internet service providers (ISPs) will offer different packages with different speeds so remember to shop around and find the deal which is right for you).

They have been making everyone aware that in order to benefit from fibre broadband, you need to sign up with a service provider. However, I do appreciate that there are still people out there who aren't able to benefit and suffer slow speeds. Please be rest assured that you haven't been forgotten. The Scottish Government's £600 million Reaching 100% (R100) programme will deliver on our commitment to ensure that every home and business across the country can access superfast broadband at speeds of 30 Megabits per second or better and will place a particular focus on helping island, remote rural and rural communities where there are no commercial plans for investment.  Procurement for R100 is ongoing, and we are on track to award contracts by the end of 2019. I will bring you a further update around this in our coming newsletters.

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands

Remember to check and order

Thanks to the programme, more than 930,000 premises are able to connect to the new network, which has now arrived in Kilmany in Fife for the first time. Other areas to receive further deployment include Broughton in the Scottish Borders and Auchnagatt in Aberdeenshire.

It is important to remember that you need to sign up for the new, faster services with an internet service provider, as upgrades are not automatic. You can check our interactive map here.

DSSB programme helps to benefit the economy by £2.76 Billion

In April, the programme issued a ‘Benefits Realisation’ report which set out the expected financial benefits to the Scottish economy. The research has suggested that every public pound invested in fibre broadband in Scotland is delivering almost £12 of benefits to the Scottish economy.

The research commissioned by DSSB and undertaken by telecoms, media and technology specialist consultants Analysys Mason, estimates the total benefit from this investment as £2.76 billion over 15 years. This represents a strong positive return on public funds used for the deployment of broadband and, in turn, this means that for every £1 of public funding, £11.60 of economic benefit will be produced and shared amongst business and consumers. That is money well spent and shows what can be delivered for people and businesses in Scotland when government works together with public agencies and private providers on a shared ambition.

The evaluation also concluded that the programme had laid the foundation for other digital developments in Scotland, we are working to support the full potential of health and e-government benefits in the future. You can read the full report here.

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