

Government vouchers could fund the cost of getting Full Fibre built for your community

Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband can deliver fantastic benefits for homes and businesses within your community. There's an opportunity to bring Full Fibre broadband to eligible properties in Landulph, utilising Government funding in partnership with Openreach, one of the Government's registered network build suppliers.

Government voucher availability

Government funding is available to help pay for the cost of having the fibre network built. The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme available from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), means that every eligible address can claim a residential voucher worth as least £1,500 (or £3,500 for a business/sole trader) to improve broadband in their local area*. The community needs to come together to pledge and validate their individual vouchers and reach the required pledge target before the scheme closes on the 31^{st} March 2021.

Only one voucher can be claimed per address.

By pledging your residential or business voucher, you're taking the first step towards getting Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband. You're also agreeing to install or regrade your broadband to an Ultrafast package, once service is available. We'll tell you when the build is complete so you can place an order with a provider of your choice, within a reasonable timeframe.

We'll keep you updated through a series of emails and text messages, so please check your device settings to make sure you receive these important communications. You'll also receive communication from DCMS asking you to validate your voucher. It's important that you do this otherwise we can't build. Once installed, DCMS will email you to confirm you've ordered a Full Fibre broadband service so your voucher value can be claimed towards the cost of the build.

If you want to know more about the Government funding visit: <u>www.gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk</u>

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the voucher scheme?

The Government recognise that Gigabit-capable, or Ultrafast broadband connections offer the fastest and most reliable speeds available. The Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme has been designed to support rural communities who are eligible for funding, team up with a network provider and bring that technology to their doorstep. We are one of the Government's registered network build providers.

More information can be found on the Department of Culture, Media and Sport website

https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/

The terms and conditions attached to the scheme seem very complicated, will I have any contractual obligations at the end of this?

The main condition is that once the network is in place, you sign up with a communications provider of your choice and start enjoying the benefits of Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband.

Do I have to order my broadband from BT, or can I choose which provider I use?

No, you are not tied to BT when you pledge your voucher. Openreach will build an open network, meaning that you can order from a service provider of your choice, assuming they sell in your area.

How much will the fibre service cost?

Costs will vary depending on the package and the service provider. There are many price comparison sites available to review.

If you are already under contract with a service provider, speak to them. They may be able to move your contract over to a Full Fibre product. There may be a price adjustment.

Can I still keep my telephone number?

You can keep your existing telephone number as your phone service will continue to be delivered via the traditional copper network for now. You can however speak to your provider about the alternative options and benefits an Ultrafast Full Fibre service can give you.

Ten fantastic full fibre facts:

- Connecting everyone to 'full fibre' broadband by 2025 would create a £59 billion boost to the nation's economy.
- Fibre optics are strands of glass around one tenth the thickness of a human hair. They transmit data using light signals.
- A single strand of fibre can provide enough capacity to serve up to 32 individual properties with Gigabit speeds
- Pure fibre optic broadband can run at speeds of 1 gigabit per second (1000Mbps) – that's 18 times faster than today's UK average broadband speed. You can download a two-hour HD film in less time than it takes to make a cup of tea. And video gamers could download a 5-gigabyte virtual reality (VR) game in 1.7 minutes, instead of waiting half an hour.
- Full fibre is more reliable than traditional copper connections. A full fibre broadband signal isn't affected by external interference whereas copper can be impacted by outside electrical signals – including electric fences and even bad weather!
- A fibre optic cable can send a signal over 120 miles without any real loss of quality. Traditional copper cables can lose signal at around one mile.
- A family of four can all stream ultra HD or 4k quality video simultaneously, without waiting or buffering.
- Full fibre is better for the environment the amount of electricity used to power fibre is significantly less than needed for copper cables. Better connectivity also enables more people to work from home – which cuts down on commuting. Research suggests fibering up the whole of the UK could save 300 million commuting trips – reducing carbon emissions by 360,000 tonnes.
- Full fibre can boost business productivity. It enables cheaper broadband powered phone services, and better access to cloud-based computing services. For example, full fibre connectivity combined with cloud computing means businesses can upload, store, access and download vast amounts of data in minutes instead of hours. Data is backed up and securely archived offsite so not relying on costly, ageing servers taking up expensive office space.
- Full fibre broadband will be crucial in supporting plans to give NHS patients access to 'virtual clinics' where patients who don't physically need to come hospital can get a video consultation with their doctor. It can also allow hospitals to share HD quality graphics of medical scans in seconds to improve diagnosis speeds. For example, medical staff can download a 2 gigabyte CT scan in 40 seconds, instead of 14 minutes.

Can I use the voucher to meet my current broadband costs?

No. The voucher can only be towards the cost of the infrastructure build only. You will have to pay for a broadband package.

My query isn't answered here, where can I get more information? Please visit our website <u>https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships</u>

You, your neighbours and Openreach. Let's get your community connected.