

Fibre to The Premises (FTTP)

What is the difference between fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) and fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC)?

All fibre broadband is delivered through clusters of fibre optic cables, each one thinner than a human hair. Fibre optic cables carry data encoded in pulses of light. There are two different types of superfast fibre broadband: 'fibre-to-the-cabinet' (FTTC) and 'fibre-to-the-premises' (FTTP).

With fibre-to-the-cabinet, fibre optic cables run from the telephone exchange to local street cabinets before using standard copper telephone wires to connect to homes and businesses. Most fibre connections in Scotland are FTTC services, and are typically sold as offering speeds of up to 80Mbps.

Fibre-to-the-premises broadband involves fibre optic cables running directly from the telephone exchange right to your home or business. As it is pure fibre and does not involve copper telephone wires, FTTP is faster than FTTC and can deliver speeds of up to 1,000Mbps (or one Gigabit), download speeds of up to 330Mbps and uploads of up to 50Mbps. This is subject to technology constraints and local service provider offerings.

Who can get FTTP?

Currently around 23,500 premises (as at October 2019) are able to connect via FTTP thanks to the DSSB programme. From September 2019 the vast majority of deployment by DSSB has been FTTP.

What are the benefits of FTTP?

High speed

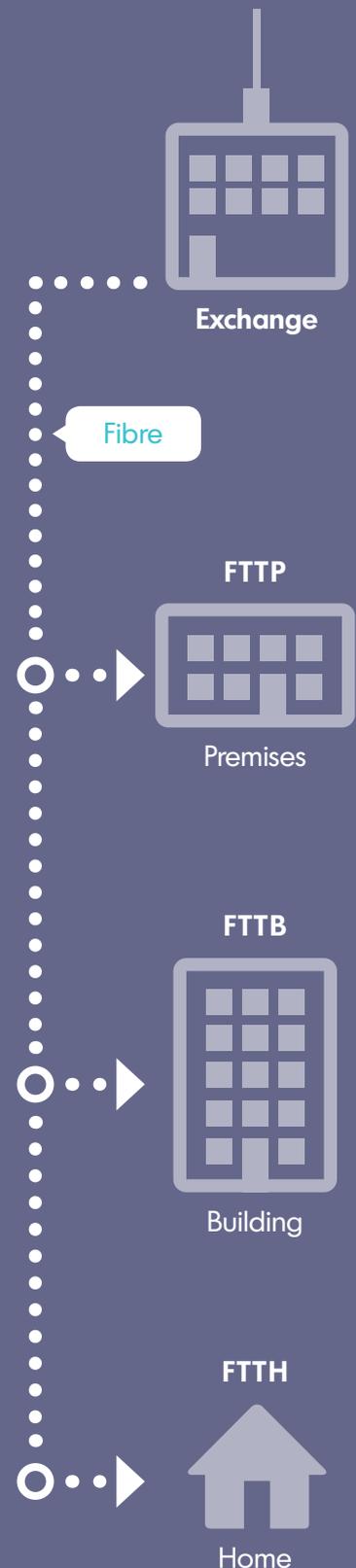
FTTP's 100% fibre connection offers very fast speeds and this can improve the performance of your internet connection. For most home users and small businesses, the speeds achieved through a FTTC connection are more than adequate. However, some larger businesses or businesses that have a high number of staff online, or are sending and receiving very large amounts of data, can benefit from the higher speeds offered through FTTP.

Reliable & stable internet connection

The characteristics of FTTP also helps ensure that your internet connection is robust and reliable when multiple users access it. This may, for example, help businesses that use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) or home users who are watching HD TV or online gaming on multiple devices at the same time.

How do I get FTTP?

To check if FTTP is available to you visit www.scotlandsuperfast.com and enter your landline or postcode to our online checker. This will tell you if FTTP is available to you or not. It is important to know that installation isn't automatic you will need to place an order with a service provider of your choice. Find out about the service providers available at Ofcom's site <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/quality-of-service/report>



The installation process

As every connection is unique, the installation itself for FTTP can vary. Having FTTP installed will take a little longer than it would for a 'regular' FTTC order. This is because the process is slightly more complex and depending on circumstances could occasionally take up to 35 working days to install.

Survey

Unlike with FTTC, all FTTP orders are subject to survey. This could involve an engineer visiting your property and assessing how the fibre will reach your home or premises. In some cases, this may require the introduction or use of poles, or 'digging-in' of the cable. All of this will be discussed and explained to you by your service provider before any installation starts.

Build costs

At the same time, your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will assess whether there will be any excess build costs for your connection.

All of this will be discussed and agreed with you before putting in your service.

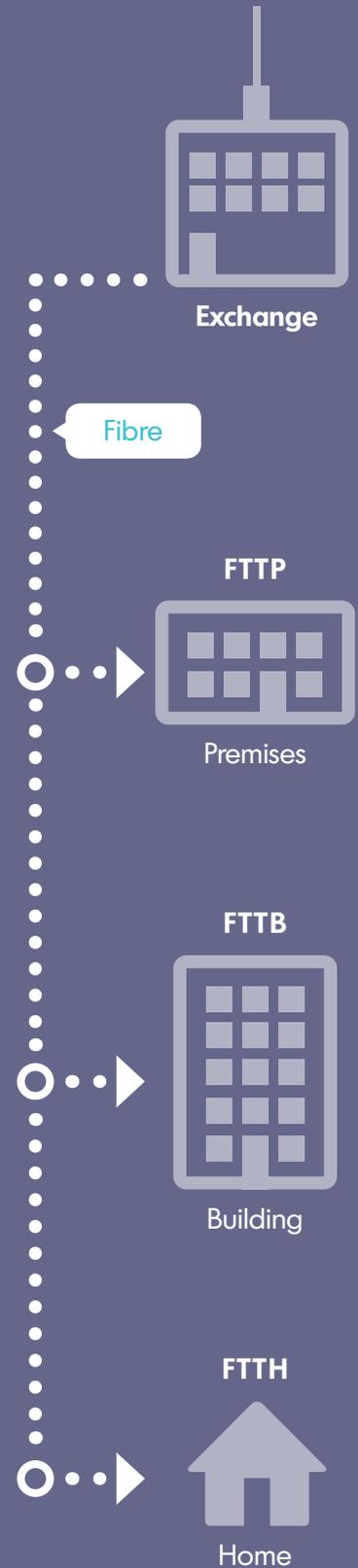
Inside your property

The FTTP equipment inside your house is slightly different to that used when the service comes through your phone line. Occasionally, it may require some cabling work inside your premises.

Will FTTP cost me more?

The cost of fibre broadband packages are generally set according to speed brackets, with prices increasing according to the speed you choose. So whether you are a FTTC or FTTP customer the costs for available packages (up to 80Mbps) will be the same. Since FTTP is capable of higher speeds, some ISPs offer customers additional ultrafast package options. Find out about the speed you will need here: www.scotlandsuperfast.com/media/1657/dssb_broadband_speed_table.pdf

Find out what deals are available to you by visiting Ofcom's price comparison site here: www.boostyourbroadband.com



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