

## A Scottish summer connecting the hardest to reach places



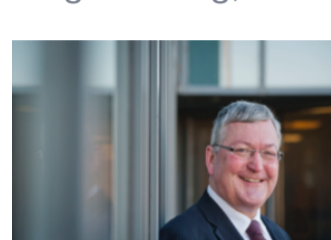
Hopefully most of us will have been able to enjoy a few days break over the summer – but please rest assured there has been no let up with the crews out deploying fibre. Each week more villages and communities go live, with more than 750,000 premises now able to get fibre broadband thanks to the programme.

We are now reaching premises which are much harder to reach. Many of the latest connections to be upgraded were previously 'Exchange Only' (EO) lines, a historic legacy of the copper network once thought to be out of the reach of high-speed fibre services. Such lines run directly from the exchange to homes and business premises, bypassing the usual roadside cabinets which are a vital part of the fibre roll-out. Engineers have worked out an innovative way to integrate these lines into the fibre network, laying hundreds of metres of new cables to reroute lines through extra roadside cabinets.

And it's not just the engineers who have been hard at work. The team have also been out and about across the country promoting our campaign. 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 do rest assured that we are now in the early stages of procurement for the Reaching 100 % programme, ensuring every premise across Scotland has access to superfast broadband by 2021. I will bring you a further update around this in our next newsletter.

Best wishes,  
Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for Connectivity



## It's Showtime!

What a great time we had at the Royal Highland Show in June! This was a fabulous opportunity to showcase the benefits of superfast broadband as well as invite people to use our interactive checker to see whether they can get it yet. It was a vintage year for the Royal Highland Show with even more people attending this year than last. Our stand was buzzing and we spoke to well over a hundred people each day. People were really interested to hear about [Better Broadband](#) and [Reaching 100%](#) as well as some of the more complex issues such as [long lines](#). A big welcome to those of you who signed up at the Show to stay 'in the loop.'



## Recent media coverage of broadband speeds



You may have noticed some recent publicity around broadband speeds.

Media coverage focussed on areas which had poorer broadband speeds but it's worth remembering that so far, the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme has enabled over 750,000 homes and businesses to gain access to fibre broadband – and we are on track to deliver 95% coverage of fibre broadband by the end of the year.

The speed tests highlighted in the media are also a useful reminder that you do have to actually sign up for superfast with a service provider. An upgrade to superfast doesn't happen automatically when the infrastructure is in place.

Cabinet Secretary for Connectivity Fergus Ewing said:  
"The Scottish Government is on track to deliver fibre broadband access to at least 95% of premises across Scotland by the end of this year. Without our investment, only 66% of premises would have been reached, with as little as 21% coverage across the Highlands and no coverage at all in Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles.

"In partnership with industry, our DSSB programme is delivering at pace and having a huge impact. Audit Scotland and Ofcom have reviewed the programme and concluded that we are on track to meet our targets, with more premises than expected able to access superfast speeds. However, local people need to sign up for the new, faster services with an internet service provider, as upgrades are not automatic.

"While broadband and mobile telephony are reserved functions and therefore the responsibility of the UK Government, we have progressed, where possible, our own ambitious agenda as we cannot wait for the UK Government to act. We strongly believe that the UK Government have missed a tremendous opportunity by setting a 10Mbps Universal Service Obligation (USO), rather than the superfast USO we proposed.

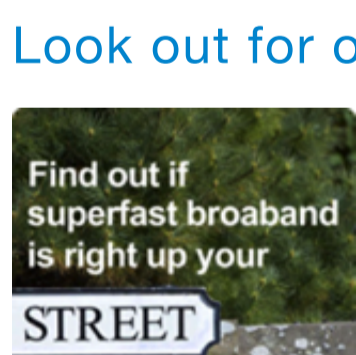
"I am of course aware that many homes and businesses do not yet have access. That is why, we have made a commitment to extend superfast broadband access to 100% of premises across Scotland by 2021, building on the success of our current fibre broadband investment programme."

## Farmer Willie is reaping the benefits of a faster connection

Willie Harper from Renfrewshire has upgraded to fibre and he is delighted by the nine-fold increase in broadband speeds he is experiencing. His farm is on a long line, some distance away from his local green cabinet. Although his speeds are not quite 'superfast' (which is defined as 'over 24 Mbps'), Willie is thrilled with the improvement and says it is making a huge difference to the ease with which he can run the farm business as well as bringing significant benefits to his family. [Find out more.](#)



## Look out for our new campaign!



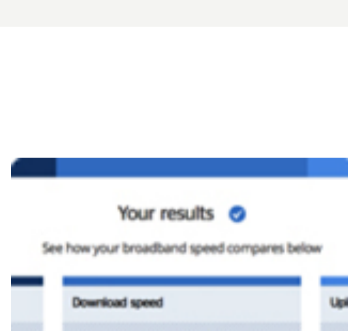
Our exciting new 'Up your street' advertising campaign is going down well so far, attracting lots of interest and helping to stimulate an increase in enquiries. On top of this, further awareness is being created by our new 'Feet on the Street' initiative. Our team have been out and about in Banff, Huntly, Duns, Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Rutherglen, Ayr, Clydebank and Newton Mearns. And on 20th July, practically the whole team took part in a bumper day of activities aimed at stimulating demand for superfast around Glasgow.

Check <https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/yourstreet> to see if it's available to you.

## How to check your internet speed.

Checking your current internet speed is really quick and easy.

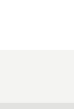
Just go to a search engine like Google and search for 'speed test.' You will find that there are a number of free online tools that you can use to check your speed. Some are designed to run from a PC, while others are apps that you can use on your smartphone.



It usually takes just a couple of clicks and then the test will run automatically and give you a result for the download and upload speed you are getting. Check out our Top Tips for how to use speed tests effectively:-

- Five top tips for running an internet speed test
1. It is a good idea to try two or three different testing tools and compare their results, as well as run tests on three different days at different times of day.
2. Turn off your firewall and anti-virus if you can (but remember to turn it on again afterwards!)
3. Before you run your test, make sure that you close any programmes or applications that are open, as these will be using some of your bandwidth.
4. Test with a wired connection for the most accurate reading. Simply plug your computer into the router using an Ethernet cable before running the speed test
5. If you're running the test using Wi-Fi, you should be no more than three metres away from your router. You should also make sure there are no obstacles (like furniture or household appliances) in the way.

If you find you are not getting the speeds that you would expect, then you should share the results with your Internet Service Provider and see what action they can take.



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TO GO FASTER?**