



The Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme met its aim of providing fibre broadband access to 95% of premises across Scotland in December 2017. The DSSB programme was never funded or expected to be able to reach all Scottish premises where there was market failure. However, using additional funding from the successful take-up of services and efficiency and innovation savings, it's been able to extend throughout 2018/19 and into 2019/20, connecting even more homes and businesses and delivering faster speeds.

Almost 5,000 new fibre street cabinets have been deployed, alongside more than 13,000km of cable, which has provided over 936,000 premises with access to fibre broadband. Research has shown that this programme will help to boost the Scottish economy by £2.76 billion.

There are robust financial measures in place to ensure that funding is invested responsibly within the defined intervention area. The programme's resources, which include public funding, aren't unlimited, so funding has had to be prioritised in ways which achieve the best impact for investment.

The programme was designed with a contingency of structures, so that it always had more premises to deploy to, than were needed to achieve its build plan. This has helped the programme avoid delays if technical or value for money barriers were encountered. It also meant the programme could have a reserve number of structures to ensure it maximised coverage and fully utilised the funding available. This approach has enabled more deployment than originally planned, ensuring areas as far south as Paxton in the Scottish Borders and as far north as Portsoy in Aberdeenshire were able to connect – areas highly likely not to have received commercial deployment.

As anticipated at this final stage of the DSSB programme, it is now reaching the most complicated, challenging and expensive premises. Earlier this month it was announced that thanks to additional funding around 6000 premises would either get an upgrade or be connected to fibre for the first time. This has allowed the plans for the final phase of the programme, which will complete in 2020, to be confirmed.

A small amount of premises who were told that they were 'in scope', although not guaranteed to receive fibre broadband access, will now not get it through the DSSB programme. You can find out if your premises are affected by clicking [here](#).

Some people are likely to be understandably frustrated and disappointed by this news. It is important to remember that the Scottish Government is fully committed to providing access to superfast broadband to all homes and businesses across the country through its [Reaching 100% \(R100\) Programme](#). The preferred bidder(s) for this will be announced later this year.

The UK Government has confirmed that universal high speed broadband will be delivered by a regulatory Universal Service Obligation (USO), giving everyone in the UK access to speeds of at least 10 Mbps by 2020. You can read more detail about the UK Government's commitment to a regulatory USO [here](#). 10Mbps is the speed that Ofcom, the independent regulator, says is needed to meet the requirements of an average family.

In the meantime, there may be some [alternative solutions](#) which could improve your broadband speed until superfast speeds are available at your address.



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