

Factsheet

SCOTTISH BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME (SBVS)

Description of the scheme

As part of its 2016 election manifesto, the Scottish Government committed to deliver 100% superfast broadband access by the end of 2021. This commitment will be delivered through three strands of deployment activity – the Reaching 100% (R100) contracts, connections delivered by commercial suppliers, and the SBVS.

The SBVS will ensure that every address in Scotland has the ability to access a superfast broadband connection by the end of 2021, regardless of whether or not it will ultimately receive a superfast connection through the other two strands of activity.

The SBVS will provide two distinct levels of subsidy:

Main Voucher

There will be some properties that will not receive superfast connections through either the R100 contracts or commercial coverage. These properties will be eligible for a voucher – worth up to £5,000 – that will help owners and/or tenants secure a superfast connection.

Interim Voucher

The R100 contracts will likely deliver the majority of connections after 31 December 2021. For those properties, the SBVS will provide interim vouchers – worth up to £400 (£650 for particularly difficult-to-reach properties) to ensure they can access a superfast broadband service in the meantime.

Eligibility for a voucher is subject to the rules set out in the beneficiary Terms & Conditions, available [here](#).

Technology solutions

The SBVS is technology-neutral – as long as the technology is capable of delivering superfast speeds of 30 Megabits per second (Mbps), it is considered eligible for the scheme.

Eligible technologies

Fibre

Fixed line broadband over fibre to the premises (FTTP) or fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) can deliver speeds well in excess of 30Mbps. However, availability in Scotland's most remote and rural areas is often limited, due to the costs associated with deployment.

Fixed wireless

Wireless broadband can deliver speeds of 30Mbps and above, but the quality of service will vary, dependant on the product selected.

Satellite

Satellite broadband can deliver speeds of 30Mbps or above and is often the only option available to Scotland's most difficult-to-reach properties. There will also be a short time delay with satellite broadband due to the technology involved which requires the signal to travel from your premises, to the satellite, and back to earth.

This change may take some getting used to.

Mobile broadband

Fixed 4G broadband uses an internal or external antenna to receive a service that is then distributed around the premise via WiFi or internal cabling – just as traditional fixed broadband does. Fixed 4G broadband can deliver speeds of 30Mbps or above. Fixed 4G broadband is only available in certain parts of Scotland and it is important to discuss the realistic speeds that you are likely to receive with your chosen supplier.

Application process

Once you have confirmed your eligibility, you can approach suppliers to see if they are able to provide a connection (although suppliers may also approach you). Your chosen supplier applies for the voucher on your behalf, organises the installation and claims payment using the voucher subsidy.

You can also register your interest in the scheme by completing this [form](#). We will then share your address with all registered suppliers – we will not share any other details such as your name with them.

Suppliers

A full list of registered suppliers operating in Scotland is available [here](#).

Other information

The Scottish Government is not responsible for organising any installation of a service. That is the sole responsibility of your chosen supplier.

The contract you enter into with your chosen supplier is for a minimum of 12 months.

Once you have a chosen supplier, it is their responsibility to ensure that the installation of your new connection takes place within one month of the date on which they receive the voucher. If they are not able to deliver your new connection by this date, then the voucher will expire and the grant will no longer be available. However, you will be able to ask the supplier to reapply or approach a new supplier.