

Julie James AC/AM
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-793
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00588/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

7 June 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 17 May following further consideration of P-05-793 regarding the provision of high speed broadband services to Llangenny village.

The agreement with BT for the delivery of the Superfast Cymru project was to deliver fast-fibre connectivity to 690,000 premises across Wales. BT was not contracted to reach all premises. Similarly, no one area was guaranteed to receive full access to superfast broadband or promised access to connectivity with information regarding roll-out dates scheduled and never definitive. Information regarding connectivity was provided to officials by BT in good faith and correct at the time of issue; information was never intentionally misleading.

There are numerous factors that influence why BT reached some premises but not others, and why forecast delivery dates fluctuated significantly for individual premises. These factors are beyond the control of the Welsh Government and include a range of technical, civil engineering, geographical issues which in turn impact delivery cost or timescale and, ultimately, lead to alternative premises being taken forward to completion.

Preparations for the successor scheme are well advanced with the tender exercise ongoing and expected to conclude in June. I aim to announce the successful bidders before the summer recess with deployment work commencing as swiftly as possible after that.

The successor scheme will be underpinned by £80 million of public funding and will extend the availability of superfast broadband to those premises not covered under either Superfast Cymru or the commercially driven roll-outs of telecommunications companies in the next three years. It will also encourage solutions for those areas suffering the lowest download speeds and in areas with lower 4G mobile data coverage. Further information, including which premises will be included, will be available once a contract is awarded.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In addition, I am planning to introduce a novel scheme supporting communities not reached by the latest procurement but also where voucher support may not be the answer. This approach will not be firmed up until the current procurement has concluded and I have clarity on where the successful suppliers will reach.

Financial assistance continues to remain available to homes and businesses to secure a superfast broadband connection via the Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) and Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher (UCV) schemes.

The ABC Scheme provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales (it does not include monthly rental costs). New connections through this scheme must deliver a step change in speed - with at least double current download speeds. The amount of funding received is dependent on the speed of the new connection.

The business focused UCV Scheme is also available for businesses wishing to upgrade an existing connection to an ultrafast service (100+Mbps downstream, 30+Mbps upstream). The scheme provides up to £10,000 to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new ultrafast connections but does not include monthly rental costs.

Further information on both schemes can be obtained by calling 0300 025 8887 or emailing broadband@gov.wales.

I understand and appreciate the concerns and frustrations of residents. Please be assured I am continuing to do everything possible to ensure those wishing to secure a superfast broadband connection can do so.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AC/AM
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip
Leader of the House and Chief Whip