



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

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Delyth Jewell MS

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Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh  
Language, Sport, and International Relations  
Committee

Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
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*Dear Delyth,*

Thank you for the invitation to attend the Senned Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee on 19 October. I am writing to confirm the update I provided on Project Gigabit in Wales.

Currently, 96.9% of premises in Wales have access to Superfast broadband and 66.5% have access to a gigabit-capable connection. This is up from 6.6% in January 2019.

Building Digital UK (BDUK) is the executive agency of DSIT responsible for delivering Project Gigabit, the UK Government's £5 billion mission to roll out fast, reliable broadband to premises that are not included in suppliers' commercial plans.

I am pleased to confirm that in July 2023, BDUK launched a cross regional procurement covering North West Wales, Mid Wales and South East Wales, inviting suppliers to bid for a contract to build full fibre broadband to hard-to-reach areas that would not normally be commercially viable to connect.

Cross regional procurements are designed to reach premises in areas where, following engagement with suppliers, we have established there is insufficient market appetite to support a smaller local or regional intervention.

We aim to award a contract under this cross regional framework in summer 2024. I can also now confirm that North Wales and South West Wales will be included within a further cross regional procurement once the contract is in place. In the meantime, proposals for voucher projects in South West Wales are currently being considered by BDUK ahead of this process beginning.

In addition, we have already provided 100,000 premises in Wales with access to gigabit-capable broadband through the Superfast Cymru programme delivered by the Welsh Government with BDUK.



I hope this information is useful.

*Yours ever*

*John*

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