



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

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All MPs

MC2021/18929/DC

Dear Colleague

Progress on Project Gigabit - connecting the nation to fast, reliable broadband

I am writing to update you on the progress we are making with 'Project Gigabit', the government's mission to connect the UK to lightning-fast, reliable broadband. This is the third delivery update since the launch of Project Gigabit and the first since the [Summer Update](#) of August 2021.

The world is in the middle of a digital revolution - a process accelerated by COVID - making the infrastructure that connects us more important than ever. I am therefore delighted to be appointed as Minister of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, with responsibility for delivering on this across the UK - one of the Government's highest priorities.

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the news that we have now reached the milestone of 50% gigabit-capable coverage in the UK - a dramatic rise from 5.8% in January 2019. We expect this growth to continue, reaching 60% gigabit-capable coverage by the end of December.

Today's update to the Project Gigabit Delivery Plan includes progress with Phase 1 roll-outs and Phase 2 procurements. It also includes the sequencing and dates of English Phase 3 rural projects, covering around 500,000 premises in Essex, Lincolnshire, Devon & Somerset, Herefordshire & Gloucestershire, Dorset, Cheshire, and West Yorkshire.

£90 million has been allocated from Project Gigabit to increase gigabit coverage through existing contracts under the Superfast Broadband Programme to support communities that are most in need. This Autumn update outlines how this is being used to invest in projects across every part of the UK including: an additional £8 million to deliver full fibre to 3,600 premises in Scotland, as part of the Scottish Government's R100 project, and £25 million to connect rural and remote parts of Northern Ireland.



While significant progress has been made since the Project Gigabit launch, there are still challenges ahead. Some premises are classed as 'very hard to reach' and may require different approaches to deliver cost-effective upgrades to their digital infrastructure. In March, we issued a Call for Evidence focusing on demand, benefits, barriers, and future technologies. We are now reviewing all these responses.

I both look forward to your support as we continue to roll out the biggest broadband build in UK history, and welcome any issues relating to your constituencies and communities to be shared with me.

Please find below a link to full details of the Project Gigabit Programme¹.

With Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Lopez MP
Minister of State
Minister for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure

¹ <https://projectgigabit.campaign.gov.uk/>