



**Local Full Fibre Networks Programme
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #21
7.11.19**

Introduction

Up until the end of October, the Scheme had connected over 14,700 premises supported by vouchers with a value of just under £33.8m - an increase of £3.7m on last month. In addition, almost 10,000 vouchers - with a value of around £18m - are issued pending connection. This commits around £52m of the available LFFN £67.8M fund.

Suppliers should also note that Project PRPs have already been agreed which, potentially, could result in voucher requests for the majority of the remaining LFFN funding. In addition, we also have a significant number of Project PRPs pending review which, if agreed, may result in further voucher requests against the remaining funding.

PRP approval does not confer a commitment to issuing vouchers, and suppliers should note that no further vouchers will be issued when the LFFN voucher fund is assessed to be fully committed. Suppliers requesting further LFFN voucher funded projects should be aware that we have already received project applications which, potentially, could result in voucher requests beyond the remaining headroom for that fund.

The RGC fund (Rural Projects) has committed around £4.4m since May. The rural vouchers are part of a wider £200m programme. Suppliers are therefore advised to divert their attention to developing rural projects for which voucher funding is more likely to be available.

Scheme Changes - Effective Date

Supplier Bulletin #8 introduced a number of changes to the Scheme the effective date of some of which was at a later date. For all LFFN Project PRPs **the final date on which any voucher may be requested with a value greater than £2,500 is 7 January 2020 at noon.**

Please note: the Scheme terms and conditions defined this effective date as 1 January 2020, however the accompanying graphic in Supplier Bulletin #8 showed 7 January 2020. We have therefore decided to implement the change at **noon on the later date** provided and therefore in respect of this change relevant previous references to 1 January 2020 should be treated as references to 7 January 2020.

Historic England

HE is the payment agent for DCMS with regard to the voucher schemes operated by BDUK. It is not able to respond to any questions about Supplier Registration; the status of any



Pre-Registered Package (PRP), or individual vouchers. Suppliers should only use the support facility when signed in as a user on the website for any queries.

Unvalidated Voucher Claims

Suppliers are reminded that if a customer fails to validate a claimed connection within 28 days, we reserve the right to cancel the associated voucher. This would mean that the customer or you as the supplier, would become entirely liable for the costs associated with the connection. There are a number of suppliers with vouchers which have exceeded this deadline and we will begin to cancel these vouchers shortly. Please check to see if you have vouchers which have not been validated as installed by your customer more than 28 days after you reported the connection complete. The number of vouchers you have awaiting validation is shown on your signed-in home screen as: "Redeemed Vouchers awaiting validation".

Supplier Responses to PRP questions from BDUK

Please note that if suppliers fail to respond to questions from us about PRP applications that are in progress, we reserve the right to pause review of the PRP application concerned or any others under review until such time as we have received a response.

Notes and Queries #5

From time to time we publish responses to questions that suppliers have raised about the Scheme which we believe will be helpful to other suppliers. The latest update to the set of Notes and Queries is now published in the suppliers' library accessible when you are signed in on the site at the following link: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/media/>.

Supplier Payments and Site Visits during Christmas and New Year

Please note that there will be no payment run on **26th December 19**. Our next planned payment cycle is scheduled to take place on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

Between 24th December and 2nd January no site visits will take place. This may delay payments on a small number of vouchers related to projects - claimed connections which have been selected for a site visit are identified on your voucher download as "visit required".