

**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #26
18 February 20**

Introduction

Vouchers under the Scheme are supported by two funding sources; the LFFN fund - which supports vouchers in qualifying urban and rural locations across the UK and the RGC fund which supports vouchers in qualifying rural locations, as part of Project PRPs.

As has been previously communicated in numerous supplier bulletins, the LFFN funding is nearing exhaustion. In Bulletin#25, we said that we would share our “close-down” plan for this element of the Scheme. We expect this part of the Scheme to become fully committed in the next few weeks. When this happens, no further voucher requests will be accepted for the LFFN funded part of the Scheme.

The Rural part of the Scheme will continue to operate as normal and is currently expected to operate until March 2021.

Voucher Commitment

Suppliers are reminded that our acceptance of any PRP does not guarantee funding will be available to support any connections within that package; approval of a PRP only confirms that, on the basis of the information provided, we believe that the PRP conforms to the Scheme rules.

Funding for vouchers is only confirmed when we “issue” a voucher. We will make sure that we have sufficient funding in place to honour all vouchers that we issue. However, as we approach full commitment of the available fund, there is a risk that we will not be able to issue all vouchers suppliers request.

We will only issue vouchers for LFFN funding where: the beneficiary has confirmed their acceptance of the Scheme terms and conditions; we believe the terms of the Scheme have been met and (as provided in Clause 13.1.2(b) of the Supplier terms and conditions) sufficient LFFN funds are available to honour the voucher.

If there is insufficient LFFN funding to honour all vouchers that have been requested, we will allocate the remaining LFFN funding on a 'first come first served' basis (i.e. prioritising voucher requests in the order that they were received by us).

Notice Period

Our intention is to provide suppliers with at least 2 day's notice that we will cease to issue vouchers funded from the LFFN part of the Scheme. We will provide this notice in a bulletin

like this one. We will issue vouchers up to the maximum value of the fund. Suppliers are reminded that the Scheme may be closed without notice, as per the Scheme terms and conditions.

We will provide regular updates about the remaining value of the LFFN fund. At 12 February 2020 around £7.7m remains available for new vouchers.

For the avoidance of doubt, this is not a notice to cease the request of vouchers for LFFN funding at this present time.

New PRPs

We review PRP applications in the order in which they are received and have a substantial workstack. It is possible therefore that reviews of new PRP applications - whether for standard or project PRPs - funded from the LFFN part of the Scheme may not be complete before this part of the Scheme ceases to issue new vouchers. In such circumstances we would not review/complete the review of the relevant PRP applications, given the ability to request and be issued with vouchers would no longer exist.

Suppliers are again advised to divert their attention to the development of Project PRPs which qualify for the rural part of the Scheme.

Standard PRPs

You are also reminded that since 31 January 2020 vouchers associated with Standard PRPs may no longer be requested for premises where >100mbps is available.

If you have any questions about the Scheme please contact us at using the support function when signed in on the website.