

**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme  
Supplier Bulletin #42  
17th December 2020**

## **Introduction**

As the year draws to an end, we hope you can find time to reflect on 2020 and be proud of the progress you all have made in delivering gigabit capable broadband in the hardest to reach areas despite very challenging circumstances. The need for good connectivity has become ever more important and you are all key in making this happen.

Merry Christmas from all of us at BDUK, we look forward to working with you next year.

## **UPDATE - Voucher Scheme Post March 2021**

Due to the success of the current Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme in delivering gigabit-capability to the hardest to reach parts of the UK, BDUK is keen that we continue voucher-supported delivery during 2021, supporting telecoms providers' gigabit deployments while we procure new contracts.

We are considering allocating c.£250m of funding for vouchers from April 2021 until the 2024/25 financial year. We are encouraging suppliers to build incremental and larger contiguous areas with vouchers and to that end, we are particularly interested to hear if you have plans or proposals to use vouchers on a larger scale. This information will help with our planning of the future scheme. Suppliers should contact their usual point of contact should they wish to discuss their plans in more detail or email the team: [Iffnsuppliers@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:Iffnsuppliers@dcms.gov.uk).

We will release further details about our UK Gigabit Programme as soon as possible.

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## **Covid Amendments**

### **28 days for the beneficiary to confirm that a new connection has been delivered (clause 9.5)**

We increased the time for beneficiary confirmation from 28 days to 60 days. This is a reminder to Suppliers that connections should be validated within 60 days. We will review the list of vouchers which have not been validated within 60 days in January and then we will be placing these at risk and will begin cancelling these after January (we will reinstate the original terms by providing 14 days notice).

The status of vouchers can be checked on the Supplier Site.

## **12 Months to deliver connections**

In Bulletins 29 & 30 we advised that we would not cancel vouchers that were not claimed within 12 months of the date of voucher issue and that clause 10.2 of part B of the Scheme terms and conditions is suspended.

In Bulletin 32, we said that we would reinstate this clause by providing 28 days notice and that during this 28 day period suppliers may request extensions to the deadline for delivery of connections subject to the terms of the Scheme.

We now give notice that for vouchers which were issued on or before 31 May 2019 ONLY, clause 10.2 is reinstated. This means that vouchers which were issued on or before 31 May 2019 must be delivered and claimed by 1700 on 31 January 2021. Vouchers issued on or before 31 May 2019 which are not delivered and claimed will be cancelled.

You can see the date on which a voucher was issued by using the “Download My Vouchers” function when signed in on the website. This date is contained in column AB of the downloaded file.

## **Reminder of payment run dates over Christmas/New Year**

As a reminder, here is what was communicated in Bulletin 41:

Please note that there will be no payment run on Thursday 31st Dec 2020. After the 24th December, our next planned payment cycle is scheduled to take place on Thursday 7 January 2021.

Furthermore, between 23rd December and 5th January site visits will not take place. This may delay payments on a small number of vouchers. Claimed connections which have been selected for a site visit can be identified on your voucher download as “visit required”.

## **Update to Data Management Guidance**

In October 2020 we issued a document detailing how postcode and premises eligibility data is managed by BDUK as part of the Scheme. This document omitted a reference to Scotland which has now been corrected. This document can be found within the Scheme Library.

For a broader overview of BDUK's work, please also see this webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-digital-uk>

The Digital Connectivity Portal here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/digital-connectivity-portal>

takes suppliers through to some useful information and updates here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/resources-for-communications-network-providers>

If you have any questions about the Scheme please contact us using the Support function when signed into the website.