



**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme  
Supplier Bulletin #46  
25th February 2021**

**Introduction**

After 18 months of hard work, thousands of PRPs and tens of thousands of Rural connections, as of 5pm on the 19th February 2021, PRPs can no longer be submitted for the RGC funded element of the Scheme. Please bear with us as we work through these PRPs and we will be in touch should there be any questions.

Suppliers have until 5pm 31st March to request vouchers funded by the RGC element of the Scheme.

**Update - PRP Transfer Preference Forms and Ofcom Area 2 Impact**

The deadline for returning PRP Transfer Forms to BDUK was the 19th February, we are now working through these PRPs that Suppliers expressed an interest in transferring. Any Suppliers who did not return a transfer preference form will not have their PRPs marked for transfer to any new voucher funded by the UK Gigabit Programme. Any PRPs submitted between the time of the PRP Transfer Forms being sent on the 28th January and 19th February will be marked to transfer, providing they remain eligible.

We still expect that the new voucher will no longer treat premises that are in an Ofcom Area 2 Postcode Sector as eligible to receive voucher funding. As a reminder, this is in order to target the funding at delivering in the harder to reach areas which are least likely to receive commercial rollout. Therefore, suppliers should focus on requesting vouchers for all PRPs in Area 2 Postcode Sectors by 31st March 2021 to ensure that beneficiaries are able to benefit from the current Scheme criteria. For the avoidance of doubt, BDUK will not accept requests for vouchers in Area 2 postcode sectors after 5pm on 31st March 2021.

Please follow the link below for guidance on which postcode sectors are in Ofcom Areas 2 or 3. These are part of the WFTMR consultation and are subject to change once the consultation is finalised by Ofcom.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/file/0031/186448/schedule-2-wla-postcode-sectors-by-geographic-market.csv>

**Update - Additional Funding - Top Up Funds**

As communicated in Bulletin 44, the publication of PRPs does not guarantee access to funding, including where top up funding is used. This is applicable to PRP Transfer



Preference too. While it is likely that the new voucher will retain the option for a Local Body to top up BDUK voucher funding this does not guarantee that existing top up funds will transfer to any new Voucher funded by the UK Gigabit Programme. We are working closely with Local Bodies to understand their appetite for Top Ups under any new UK Gigabit Programme funded voucher and will provide further updates in future bulletins. Where an existing top up is not transferred to the new voucher then the voucher values available for PRPs that transfer will reduce to standard levels. BDUK will contact suppliers where this is the case.

Suppliers are encouraged to request vouchers before 5pm on the 31st March, where possible, if they wish to confirm the use of Top Up Funding in these PRPs.

### **Removal of the ability to offer payment holidays to Beneficiaries**

We now give notice that we are reinstating Scheme Terms and Conditions part B, Clause 7.3. This removes the ability for Suppliers to request the ability to offer Beneficiaries payment holidays or reduced terms for the consumption of broadband services due to Covid restrictions. This means that each Beneficiary Contract must be in writing and have a minimum contract period of 12 months and no free periods and/or discounts against standard monthly (recurring) charges may be offered to Beneficiaries which aren't offered outside of the Scheme.

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>

Other useful information and updates can be found 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.