



**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #49
22nd March 2021**

Introduction

Following BDUK's announcement last week, we are pleased to announce that the GBVS will continue, with up to £210m funding from the UK Gigabit Programme (UKGP). The UK Gigabit Voucher (UKGV) will continue the great work done by the LFFN and RGC vouchers and continue to increase the speed of deployment of Gigabit Capable networks in the harder to reach areas of the UK.

You can find more detail about Project Gigabit here -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/971325/Project_Gigabit__PHASE_ONE_DELIVERY_PLAN_v2.pdf

Eligibility Criteria

The UK Gigabit Programme is committed to supporting gigabit capable networks in the harder to reach areas of the UK and, as a result the eligibility criteria for the UKGV includes two additional requirements. We communicated the removal of Area 2 postcode sectors in Bulletin 43 on the 27th January and can now confirm that premises will be eligible for a voucher if they meet the following criteria - Premises must:

- not have speeds of more than 100 Mbps available;
- be "Rural" according to the Office for National Statistic (ONS) or equivalent:
 - (a) ONS definitions D1 – F2 (England & Wales);
 - (b) NISRA definitions E – H (Northern Ireland);
 - (c) NRS definitions 3- 8 (Scotland);
- not be within an "Area 2 Postcode Sector" as determined by Ofcom's Wholesale Fixed Telecoms Market Review 2021-26 (WFMTR);
- not be within an area that Openreach is building to as part of their RAB commitment to build premises in "Area 3" as determined by Ofcom; and
- not be part of a planned or ongoing government subsidy initiative or programme to deliver Gigabit Capable broadband, as determined by the Authority, including premises included as part of a Public Review.

Any premises which do not meet this criteria will not be eligible for a voucher when the UKGV launches on 8 April 2021. All issued vouchers will be valid for 12 months from the date of issue. If you wish to request vouchers for premises which meet the current eligibility criteria, but will not meet the UKGV criteria then you must do so by 5pm on the 31st March.



All of the information above is publicly available whilst we finalise the postcode go list and UPRN checker and you will be able to access the 'go-list' from the voucher site on the 8th April 2021, to help you understand the eligibility of your existing projects and plan future voucher supported projects.

Voucher Values

We are pleased to confirm that the maximum voucher values for Residents and SMEs remain unchanged, we will provide up to £1,500 for a Resident (inclusive of VAT) and £3,500 for a SME (excluding VAT).

Important Dates

Supplier re-registration will open on the **29th March 2021**. Existing suppliers will be able to complete a short form which features some additional questions and prospective new suppliers will be able to complete a full length form. If existing suppliers wish to change any details, they should first check the Supplier Self Service area of the site or, if the information isn't able to be changed, complete the full length form. Suppliers must agree to the new terms and conditions as a condition of registration (see below).

The UKGV will launch on the **8th April 2021**, this will mean that projects can be submitted and vouchers requested for eligible transferred projects once registration has been confirmed and the PRP re-published on the portal.

Issued RGC vouchers will be able to be claimed up to 12 months from the date of issue without re-registration, should you choose to not register to use the UKGV.

The site will not be available between **5pm on the 31st March 2021 to 9am on the 8th April 2021** to allow us to make the changes needed for the UKGV.

V7.0 Terms and Conditions

You can find the **draft** terms and conditions at the website, as well as a red line version which highlights the changes between v6.0 and v7.0:

v0.8 Ts and Cs -

https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DRAFT_UKGV-Supplier-Terms-and-Conditions-v0.8-1.pdf

Red Line Version -

https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COMPARE_DRAFT_UKGV-Supplier-Terms-and-Conditions-v0.8-vs-GBVS-v6.0-1.pdf

The key changes to the Supplier terms and conditions are outlined below.



Key Changes to Supplier Ts and Cs.	
Schedule	Wording
Throughout	Replaced PRP with Project
Throughout	Updates following exit from EU - State aid became subsidy, GDPR became UKGDPR.
Part A	Changed the wording to reflect the TCA and Subsidy Regime from 31/12/2020
Part A	Effective date of Ts and Cs is the launch of new vouchers for UKGP Projects and transferred PRPs which weren't published. Transferred PRPs which are published must comply with v6.0 unless explicitly called out. Vouchers are bound by the Ts and Cs in place when they are requested.
Part B 5.1	Must have commercial residential customers before submitting Projects to request residential vouchers, the same applies for SMEs.
Part B 5.1.5	Introduced a new Change Request process with set thresholds per category, moving away from 'material' change
Part B 7.4	Introduced the formal concept of Maximum Voucher Funding (eg. £100k limit) in a Project
Part B 6.7	Cancel project submissions if no response in 20 Working Days
Part B 6.14	Suspend Projects where Maximum Voucher Funding has been paid
Part B 8.4	Beneficiary 'consent' to use a voucher must be in writing, drawing a distinction between 'consent' and 'contract'. Old wording was 'Beneficiary Contract' for both steps.
Part B 8.6	Minimum contract terms for beneficiary contracts
Par B 11.3	If beneficiary contract is cancelled, the Supplier should return the funding
Part B 13.5	Retain the right to not publish if we don't deem it Value for Money.
Part B 13.6	Clarity on the audit process and the evidence we expect Suppliers to keep.
Part B 13.9	Right to recover costs as a result of fraud following Issue Escalation procedure
Part B 14	New Change Request process
Schedule 1	Defined CPESpecific to FWA to exclude non gigabit capable equipment
Schedule 2 1	Clearly stating eligibility criteria for UKGV
Schedule 2 8	Multiple connection scenarios updated based on allowing a beneficiary to have more than 1 voucher if they have more than 1 premises
Schedule 2 9	New section on treatment of MDUs
Schedule 4	Introduced Eligible Capex and Attributable Opex
Schedule 6	Introduced the idea of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Issues to allow for swifter action for lesser offences which affect productivity/ internal workloads but not serious

The **final version will be available when registration opens**. We have also updated the Beneficiary Ts and Cs to match changes made to the Supplier Ts and Cs, these will be available at the same time as the final Supplier Ts and Cs.

The Top Up schedule has been removed whilst we finalise the agreements with local bodies.

Project (PRP) Transfer



Eligible projects which you expressed an interest in transferring will become active once your registration is approved and the new voucher is launched on 8th April. If there are any projects which you think are missing, you will have the opportunity to raise this and should do so by raising a support ticket on the website.

If you previously indicated a preference to transfer a PRP which features ineligible premises based on the new eligibility criteria, we will be in touch with you to provide you with the PRPs we think are impacted. You will have the opportunity to change the project to only include eligible premises, provide evidence that all of the premises are eligible based on the new criteria or cancel the project.

Additional Funding - Top Up Funds

We are working hard with Local Bodies to understand which Top Up Funds can be transferred to the UKGV, these might not be immediately available with the UKGV but we will update you on the progress of these as soon as we are able to.

If Top Up funds aren't available and this impacts transferred projects, then we will be in touch to discuss next steps. As the current agreements end with the end of the RGC voucher, the only way to guarantee that you have access to Top Up funding is to request the relevant vouchers before 31st March#.

If you have any questions about any of this, please contact LFFNSuppliers@dcms.gov.uk with the subject line - "Bulletin 49".

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.