



**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #73
3 March 2022**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Closure of the Wales Top-Up

We are writing to inform you that the Welsh Government has instructed us to close the Wales top-up element of the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme on 31 March 2022.

Suppliers have until 5pm on 31 March to request vouchers with the Wales top-up. After this date, you will no longer be able to request a top-up in Wales but you are still able to request Gigabit Vouchers.

Vouchers at issued status are not impacted by the closure and can be progressed as normal.

RGC Voucher extension requests beyond 31 March 2022

In the months preceding the closure of the Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) programme in March 2021, BDUK issued vouchers for a number of approved RGC voucher projects ahead of the launch of the UK Gigabit Voucher and accompanying eligibility changes in April 2021.

All vouchers issued prior to the launch of the UK Gigabit Voucher on 08 April 2021 were issued in accordance with the eligibility criteria in place at the time of voucher issue, which remain available on the [Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme \(GBVS\) website](#).

As stated in the GBVS terms and conditions, voucher claims are required to be submitted for payment no later than 12 months from the issue date of the relevant voucher(s).

However, we can consider voucher extensions if during the 12-month implementation period suppliers notify us that this timeframe is at risk due to issues caused by third parties beyond their reasonable control and which could not be reasonably foreseen (provided that the suppliers have taken reasonable steps to mitigate any delay). Under these circumstances, BDUK will consider the evidence provided and may, at its sole discretion, agree to a revised claim deadline for the voucher(s).

We have recently received a significant number of extension requests for vouchers issued as part of the RGC programme. However, under current funding arrangements, we are only able to extend vouchers issued as part of the RGC programme until 31 March 2022 and can provide no assurance that we will be able to provide further extensions beyond this date.



We have engaged with relevant government departments to seek agreement on enabling extensions to RGC vouchers beyond March 2022, but have not yet secured a decision.

We recognise the challenges that this may cause and will communicate the decision as soon as it is confirmed. In the meantime, we would encourage suppliers with projects that include unclaimed RGC vouchers to do all they can to bring the delivery forward to mitigate the risks of being unable to claim these vouchers beyond 31 March.

Vouchers Business Survey

We would also like to inform you that Winning Moves on behalf of BDUK is conducting a business survey asking voucher beneficiaries for feedback on the voucher scheme and benefits to their business, which will be running until the end of March 2022.

Therefore, as a supplier, if you should get any queries about the survey from beneficiaries please let them know that this is legitimate BDUK research (for UKGV and RGC vouchers).

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.

