



**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #76
29 March 2022**

RGC Voucher Extension Update

We are pleased to confirm BDUK has been able to allow all incomplete voucher projects with valid extension requests for Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) vouchers to continue for a limited period beyond 31 March 2022.

More than 14,000 RGC voucher extension requests were received by BDUK and for the vast majority of them, suppliers were able to provide evidence to prove the delay to a project was due to a third party and beyond the suppliers' reasonable control in order for extensions to be granted to the dates requested. This has been possible thanks to the funding BDUK secured from HM Treasury to safeguard projects at risk from terminating due to vouchers approaching their expiry.

Suppliers should note, no extensions are permitted beyond December 2022 and no further RGC extensions will be allowed beyond these being processed now.

Around 1200 valid extension requests have been granted by transferring RGC vouchers to the newer UK Gigabit Voucher (UKGV) where the UKGV criteria has been met. This transfer has been allowed under exceptional circumstances on this occasion only to ensure minimal impact on communities awaiting a gigabit connection. The terms and conditions for the UKGV are on the [GBVS website](#) and the vouchers for this project would be subject to these terms and conditions at the point of issue. However BDUK would like to reassure you that the change in voucher will not mean any other change to your project as a result and work will be able to continue uninterrupted.

BDUK is currently finalising the processing of the voucher extensions and transfers to UKGV. Please be assured we are working as fast as possible but this task may take some time to complete due to the sheer volume required to be processed. You will then be able to update beneficiaries about any impact or changes to projects resulting from this outcome. However, BDUK is hopeful that this positive response for the vast majority of requests will mean minimal impact and most projects are able to continue without interruption.

BDUK has only refused extension requests where suppliers could not provide suitable evidence to demonstrate a delay to a project was due to a third party, beyond the supplier's reasonable control, could not be reasonably foreseen and reasonable steps were not taken to mitigate a delay.

Voucher Pauses due to Procurements

Vouchers will not be able to be requested or projects submitted for the below areas from the 8th April 2022 due to the upcoming Project Gigabit procurements. BDUK has been prioritising reviews of projects in these areas where possible. If you have any queries please raise a support ticket with the reference "2A Pause".



- Worcestershire (Lot 24)
- Oxfordshire and West Berkshire (Lot 13)
- Kent (Lot 29)
- Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and East of Berkshire (Lot 26)
- Staffordshire (Lot 19)
- West Sussex (Lot 1)

As a reminder, Voucher Priority Areas are designed to allow well developed, in-flight projects to deliver connectivity quicker than a procurement would. BDUK will confirm final VPAs for Phase 2A as well as 1B areas in due course.

Dumfries and Galloway

Localised demand stimulation activity for the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) is taking place across the UK and BDUK has decided to put the spotlight on the wide variety of voucher campaigns and projects that have been delivered. Suppliers may choose to consider exploring voucher projects where appetite from communities for gigabit broadband could already be growing as a result.

In Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Council is raising awareness of two voucher opportunities. Residents are being encouraged to combine the UK Gigabit Voucher (UKGV) under GBVS with the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme (SBVS), which offers up to £5,000 per premises where superfast broadband is not yet available or planned. These values can be topped up to £6,500 (per resident) or £8,500 (per business) where they are also eligible for the UKGV under GBVS. For more information on SBVS, contact sbvs@gov.scot, and for more on GBVS and the UKGV, contact BDUK via Zendesk by logging a support ticket on the portal or via your usual Vouchers Team contact within BDUK.

D&G has also completed a Hubs project as part of the Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) Programme which provided gigabit connections to 35 rural primary schools. The schools were enabled via the Capita managed Scotland Wide Area Network (SWAN).

The council has shared information through social media, a community bulletin in the region and a direct marketing campaign to landlords and council employees.

This is one of a number of examples of localised demand stimulation activity and one of so far 965 registered hub sites connected to gigabit broadband as part of the RGC Programme.

Site Downtime Reminder

This is a reminder that in order for BDUK to conduct planned maintenance to the voucher site, the site will be unavailable from Wednesday 30th March 18:00 until Monday 4th April 10:00. Suppliers will not be able to submit new projects or request/claim vouchers during this time. BDUK will also be unable to publish any projects. We will continue to assess draft projects as the review process will be unaffected.

Residents and SME's won't be able to validate their vouchers during this time so any vouchers that are due to expire during this period will be extended until 05 April. Any not claimed during this further period will be automatically cancelled on 06 April.



We appreciate your patience whilst we undertake this maintenance and have sought to minimise the disruption by waiting until the end of the financial year as well as working over the weekend.

We will ensure you are kept up to date with any changes to these dates and/or times.

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.