Broadband Performance Indicator – June 2015

Statistical Release

August 2015

Contents

Introduction

This Report
This statistical release presents data on the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) superfast broadband programme. More specifically, it derives the *number of premises covered per £million of broadband delivery programme expenditure* up to June 2015. The headline statistic will be used as an input indicator[1] to measure the performance of the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

Input indicators show what is being 'bought' with public money, i.e. the resources being invested into delivering the results that DCMS and partners are aiming to achieve.

This release provides numbers for relevant BDUK expenditure and for premises where superfast broadband services are being made available as a result of BDUK support.

Broadband Delivery UK
BDUK[2] aims to continue to improve the UK's broadband network, with particular emphasis on making high-speed broadband available in rural communities. BDUK is responsible for managing the superfast broadband programme, while local authorities and devolved administrations are responsible for individual projects.

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[1] DCMS' input and impact indicators www.gov.uk/government/publications/performance-indicators
[2] BDUK: www.gov.uk/broadband-delivery-uk

Broadband Performance Indicator

Key Findings

- 2,905,764 premises had a superfast broadband service made available by the end of June 2015 as a result of BDUK-supported projects;
- BDUK grants to local authorities and budget transfers to devolved administrations amounted to a cumulative £331,828,330 in cash terms up to the end of June 2015;
- This equates to 8,757 premises covered per £million of broadband delivery programme expenditure up to the end of June 2015. Including current claims or using a true accruals basis would lead to higher expenditure figures and lower numbers of premises covered per £million of broadband delivery programme expenditure.

The numbers of premises reported here are those in intervention areas which have Next Generation Access made available at superfast speeds (above 24 Mbit/s download) as a result of BDUK-supported projects. This excludes premises which have superfast broadband available from existing sources. The data combines administrative information reported by local projects and supplier information. Adjustments are made when data are reported to BDUK on a different basis, e.g. at different download speeds.

These premises numbers therefore exclude premises which benefit from the BDUK-supported projects if their resulting speeds are below 24 Mbit/s, even if these benefits help meet BDUK's Universal Service Commitment to raise broadband speeds above 2 Mbit/s in project areas not achieving superfast speeds. They also exclude overspill effects of BDUK-supported projects on premises which already have superfast broadband available.

The expenditure figures reported here represent internal BDUK administrative information on grants to local authorities in England and budget transfers to devolved administrations related to the superfast rollout programme. Total public expenditure on the projects is higher as local authorities and devolved administrations add their own contributions and those from other sources such as the European Regional Development Fund. The total cost of projects will be higher than public expenditure on them with the difference met by supplier investment and revenue from customers.

These expenditure figures exclude BDUK support for Connection Vouchers, the Mobile Infrastructure Project, the Rural Communities Broadband Fund, the Market Test Pilots, and DCMS administrative expenditure.

Forthcoming Releases

The intention is to publish data up the end of September 2015 in November. An exact date will be pre-released on the Statistics release calendar.

Quarterly cumulative data

Table 1: Quarterly cumulative broadband data

Cumulative to end of:	Premises with superfast broadband service made available	BDUK funding (£)	Number of premises covered per £million of broadband delivery programme expenditure
December 2012	254	£ 434,735	584
March 2013	16,638	£ 6,767,185	2,459
June 2013	38,343	£ 6,767,185	5,666
September 2013	111,968	£ 10,347,568	10,821
December 2013	273,731	£ 14,182,547	19,301
March 2014	508,801	£ 58,586,408	8,685
June 2014	888,113	£ 72,437,233	12,260
September 2014	1,383,777	£ 99,766,011	13,870
December 2014	1,908,725	£ 252,084,918	7,572
March 2015	2,411,395	£ 301,444,870	7,999
June 2015	2,905,764	£ 331,828,330	8,757

The timing of BDUK expenditure is indirectly related to the timing of the availability of superfast broadband services, so the input indicator may be volatile initially. To reduce volatility, all data reported here are cumulative from the start of the programme.

The headline figures here are cash based (i.e. when grants are made or budgets transferred). On an accruals basis (which matches costs incurred to the timing of delivery), cumulative BDUK expenditure to end-June 2015 has been estimated as £367,635,571 which would equate to 7,904 premises covered per £million of broadband delivery programme expenditure. Expenditure on an accruals basis is higher because work has been delivered in advance of payment.

Annex A: Background Note

1. The Broadband Performance Indicator is an Official Statistic and as such has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Official Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference. For more information, see www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf

2. This report has been produced by Henry Bottomley. Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within DCMS and BDUK partners.

3. The responsible statistician for this release is Henry Bottomley. For enquiries on this release, please contact Henry Bottomley on 020 7211 6366.

4. Next Release: the next release, planned for November 2015, will present estimates up to the end of September 2015.

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