Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Broadband Performance Indicator
March 2018

Key Findings

- 4,852,808 premises had a superfast broadband service made available by the end of March 2018 as a result of BDUK-supported projects;

- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) net grants to local authorities and budget transfers to devolved administrations amounted to a cumulative £611,677,118 in cash terms up to the end of March 2018;

- This equates to 7,934 premises covered per £million of broadband delivery programme expenditure up to the end of March 2018. 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.

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Chapter 1:   Quarterly Cumulative Data

Table 1: Quarterly cumulative broadband data

Cumulative to end of:	Premises with superfast broadband service made available	DCMS 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
September 2015	3,311,843	£ 372,153,178	8,899
December 2015	3,625,369	£ 406,918,848	8,909
March 2016	3,840,643	£ 476,742,422	8,056
June 2016	4,021,047	£ 492,573,929	8,163
September 2016	4,168,739	£ 497,656,699	8,377
December 2016	4,309,668	£ 513,598,393	8,391
March 2017	4,426,493	£ 550,832,876	8,036
June 2017	4,551,226	£ 563,829,249	8,072
September 2017	4,651,700	£ 576,975,679	8,062
December 2017	4,772,207	£ 595,470,286	8,014
March 2018	4,852,808	£ 611,677,118	7,934

The timing of DCMS funding is indirectly related to the timing of the availability of superfast broadband services, so the indicator which combines these was 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 more closely to the timing of delivery), cumulative DCMS net expenditure to end-March 2018 has been estimated as £637,129,745, which would equate to 7,617 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: More information

Methodology

1. 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. 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.

2. 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 from existing sources.

3. The expenditure figures reported here represent internal DCMS administrative information on net 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 is higher than public expenditure on them with the difference met by supplier investment and revenue from customers.

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

Final Release

5. This is the final release of these official statistics; see proposed changes to DCMS statistical publications for details. The BDUK table of local broadband projects will continue to provide detailed administrative data, including a programme summary of the number of premises delivered to date on a basis broadly similar to that reported here.

Background

6. 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 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 UK Statistics Authority: Code of Practice for Statistics

7. This report has been produced by the responsible statistician, Henry Bottomley. Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within DCMS and BDUK partners. For enquiries on this release, please contact him on 020 7211 6366.

8. For general enquiries, telephone 020 7211 6200 or email enquiries@culture.gov.uk

Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

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