



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

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Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
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Dear Mr Selley

DELIVERING GIGABIT BROADBAND TO NEW HOMES

Thank you for your letter setting out Openreach's commitment to ensure that as many new homes as possible are built with gigabit-capable connections. I welcome this commitment in the strongest terms, and would like to thank you and your team for your efforts in meeting the digital needs of new homeowners.

This government has ambitious plans to achieve nationwide rollout of future proof, gigabit broadband as soon as possible. Gigabit broadband is vital for increasing the UK's competitiveness, boosting productivity and improving social inclusion, allowing digital infrastructure to drive future economic growth. I am committed to ensuring that the UK is at the forefront of digital connectivity, unlocking huge economic and social benefits.

The provision of gigabit-capable connectivity to new build developments is a crucial element of the work to meet our ambitious broadband targets.

Around 20 percent of new builds are not built with gigabit-capable connectivity. I am clear that housing developers and network operators must work together to ensure new home owners receive gigabit broadband.

Government has committed to legislating to ensure new homes are built with gigabit broadband. We will amend Building Regulations to oblige housing developers to install gigabit-capable infrastructure and work with operators to install a gigabit capable connection, subject to the cost cap. We will lay these regulations as soon as possible in this parliamentary session.

A combined Openreach and developer contribution of £3,400, with a maximum developer contribution of £2000 is an important part of this policy. I also welcome Openreach's new rate card, that reduces the cost of connecting the smallest developments to FTTP. Coupled with Openreach's decision to offer free FTTP to all developments of 20 premises and over, this will boost the delivery of gigabit broadband to developments of all sizes, across the country. These commitments will also ensure new homes are built with the next generation of digital infrastructure.



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The Government will review this commitment on a regular basis, to ensure that we are on track to delivering gigabit broadband to all new build developments across the whole of the UK. I would also request that Virgin Media inform DCMS of any changes to the provisions laid out in your commitment.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for this commitment which will allow us to make real progress towards delivering gigabit broadband to every home in the United Kingdom.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Dowden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport