

On Friday 25 November 2023 we received the momentous news that Openreach has received the necessary number of validations of pledges to cover fully the cost of installation of Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) for every household and business in the area covered by our application. The estimate for the “go live” date remains 8 July 2023.

This means that we will ALL get FTTP at NO COST. It doesn't matter if you applied or not, pledged or not, or validated or not. Therefore there is NO FURTHER REQUIREMENT for pledges or validations and I hope this will be my last update. Barring disaster, we should not need to do anything more but wait.

You now need to start thinking about which internet service provider (ISP) you want to supply your superfast internet and 'phone line once your house or business is connected to the fibre-optic network. Just to remind you, Openreach is NOT an internet service provider; it is the infrastructure provider. ISPs include BT, Vodafone, EE, Plusnet, Virgin Media, TalkTalk etc. There's a Which? guide at <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/broadband>, which lists most of the available ISPs and, for members, it gives useful information.

If you validated your voucher, you will be obliged to take such a service within 2 months of the “go live” date and to contract the service for at least 12 months.

Here are questions that we recommend you ask of any ISP that you are considering...

1. what is your monthly charge and contract length for each of the speeds you can offer?
2. does your monthly charge include line rental?
3. for each product: is usage capped, or speed throttled?
4. does your service include a landline and, if so
 - a. will I have to change my number?
 - b. what are your standard charges for calls to UK landlines?
 - c. what are your standard charges for calls to UK mobile numbers?
 - d. what packages (bolt-ons) do you offer for
 - i. weekend/ evening UK calls
 - ii. anytime UK calls
 - iii. does each package cover calls to UK mobile numbers?
5. will you discount if I take mobile 'phone services with you?
6. will you supply a modem?
7. will you supply a back-up battery if I need one?

And finally, a big thank-you to everyone who DID pledge and validate. You got us over the line.