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Y Gweinidog Sgiliau a Gwyddoniaeth
Minister for Skills and Science



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-720
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05426/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

17 October 2016

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2016 regarding the roll out of superfast broadband in Penderyn.

I'm sorry to hear of the frustrations of those who are unable to access superfast broadband. The fact that the petition collected 163 paper signatures clearly demonstrates that this is a matter that the residents of Penderyn feel passionately about.

Officials have checked several addresses in Penderyn and can see that the majority of the village is served by cabinet 2 on the Hirwaun Exchange. The cabinet 2 area is scheduled to be enabled for superfast broadband using a mixture of Fibre to the Property (FTTP) and Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) technology.

Those who are scheduled for connectivity using FTTP technology are due to be enabled in Spring 2017. This date is subject to change should any problems be encountered when engineers access the site. The deployment of FTTP technology does sometimes require a greater level of preparation and work by Openreach as it takes a fibre cable from the exchange right into a premise meaning no crossover onto the original copper network.

The remainder of the cabinet 2 area are in scope to be rolled out for superfast broadband using FTTC technology; where fibre optic cables run from the local exchange to roadside cabinets which are, in turn, connected to standard phone lines to provide superfast broadband to premises.

Unfortunately specific dates for roll-out to those premises served by FTTC are difficult to schedule due to each individual premises' distance from an enabled cabinet being the determining factor in level of groundwork required and the speeds achievable.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In the meantime, as an alternative route to accessing the superfast broadband, the Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) scheme is something that the resident of Penderyn might wish to explore.

The scheme provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales (it does not include monthly rental costs). New connections through this scheme must deliver a step change in speed - with at least double current download speeds. The amount of funding received is dependent on the speed of the new connection.

In addition, local businesses could be eligible for assistance under our Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher scheme. The scheme provides up to £10,000 to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new ultrafast connections for businesses in Wales. It does not include monthly rental costs. The 1st £3,000 of eligible costs is 100% funded by Welsh Government, between £3,000 and £17,000 is 50% funded, and above £17,000 no additional funding is provided.

Further information on both schemes can be obtained by calling 0300 025 8897 or emailing broadband@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

As was highlighted in my statement on Superfast Broadband on Tuesday 11th October, the contract that the Welsh Government holds with BT is for the delivery of superfast broadband to all eligible parts of Wales by the end of the project, the schedule for which areas are enabled is the responsibility of BT Openreach.

However, please rest assured that we are doing everything possible to ensure that the roll-out superfast broadband across Wales happens as soon as smoothly as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AM/AC
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