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Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip  
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-793  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/05049/17

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 November 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 15 November enclosing a petition you have received from the residents of Llangenny Village regarding the provision of hi speed broadband services to the village by December 2017.

The agreement with BT to deliver the Superfast Cymru project dictated that they provide access to superfast broadband to 690,000 premises by the end of December 2017. However the agreement did not stipulate that any particular area take priority over another and or that connectivity work to an area was completed in one particular block of time. Similarly, the agreement sees no payment to BT until a connection to a specific property has been independently tested and verified.

There are also numerous factors that influence why BT reaches some premises but not others, and why forecast delivery dates can fluctuate significantly for individual premises. These factors are beyond the control of the Welsh Government and include a range of technical, civil engineering, geographical issues that in turn impact delivery cost or timescale and, ultimately, lead to alternative premises being taken forward to completion.

As such, it is impossible to ensure that all properties within Llangenny are provided with a superfast broadband connection by 31 December 2017 under the Superfast Cymru project.

The Welsh Government has announced a further £80million to extend broadband reach across Wales by 2020. A review of broadband connections across Wales has been completed to identify which premises will remain unserved by superfast broadband. The results will shape a new contract(s) to extend the availability of superfast broadband from 2018 onwards.

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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 parallel, financial assistance will also remain available to secure a superfast broadband connection through alternative means through the Access Broadband Cymru (ABC) and Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher (UCV) schemes.

The ABC 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.

The business focused Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher Scheme is also available if your business/constituent wishes to upgrade an existing connection to an ultrafast service (100+Mbps downstream, 30+Mbps upstream). The scheme provides up to £10,000 to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new ultrafast connections for businesses in Wales but does not include monthly rental costs. Further information on both schemes can be obtained by calling 0300 025 8887 or emailing [broadband@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

I trust this clarifies the latest position and covers the issues raised.

Yours sincerely



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