

## **NBG Report for KCC Meeting 15 Jan 2020**

A brief report again this month as the Digital Scotland WhereandWhen site is only showing subtle refinements to the status of premises in and around Killearn, rather than any functional changes.

To give examples:

- In Gartness, the premises are now shown as being part of the R100 upgrade although meanwhile the Community are making some progress trying to get Rural Gigabit vouchers approved to deliver FTTP to many of the premises sooner than R100 might deliver.
- In contrast, other premises in the area, still without access to a fibre connection, are EO lines. Exceptions are those premises that are connected by a cabinet, but are too far away from the cabinet to benefit.

The latest revisions visible through the Digital Scotland have refined the status of these lines and identified them as either:

- A) You are on an Exchange Only or 'EO' line and fibre broadband is not available yet.  
You're in a plan to get fibre broadband but we haven't started work yet. Fibre will either be delivered as part of the Digital Scotland programme or through a commercial programme. {The implication is DSSB.}
- B) You are on an Exchange Only or 'EO' line and fibre broadband is not available yet.  
Unfortunately, we will not reach your premises through DSSB, but you will be included in successor programmes which are committed to Reaching 100% of premises in Scotland. {R100 or vouchers.}
- C) FTTP In Scope  
You are connected to the Killearn exchange. Your property is currently planned for upgrade to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). Your area is currently planned for upgrade to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP).
- D) FTTP In Scope, but Not In Scope for DSSB  
You are connected to the Killearn exchange. Your property is currently planned for upgrade to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The cabinet that serves your premises is live, but your speeds aren't as fast as Openreach would like them to be. Your area has been reviewed and there is a plan to do further work to increase speeds via FTTP technology. {The implication is R100.}

What seems peculiar is that on several streets a single property may be within the programme whilst the others are not (or vice versa). This may be due to data entry errors, rather than reality and deriving from existing cabling been done differently as the properties were built over an extended period.

The final options, visible for a small number of premises with less than Superfast speeds, is:

'In Scope–FTTP' with an indication of 'Accepting Orders'.

In reality, the status is really allowing you to make an expression of interest for when the FTTP infrastructure is actually ready.

A similar group of premises are already connected to a cabinet, and therefore shown as 'Accepting Orders' but are actually too far away to gain any benefit (but not visibly acknowledged as such). These are expected to be part of the R100 programme.

The keenly awaited meeting of the Broadband Delivery Forum is now scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> February where I hope that we will get a clear understanding from Digital Scotland of the R100 programme, and that it will elaborate on the [Ministerial Statement](#) made last week by Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity & the Islands. I also hope there will be a little more clarity about the various labels shown above.

The Better Broadband Scheme is now closed but the Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme is available. This only applies however where a (small) group of co-located premises can cooperatively define a localised demand. These premises can be residential or SME businesses. For more information see: <https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/how-can-i-get-it/alternative-solutions/>

As always, if you want to check your own specific situation and get the most accurate information, use the WhereandWhen page available through the Digital Scotland website:

( [www.scotlandsuperfast.com/check-my-area](http://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/check-my-area) ).

Note that this website does not operate through a secure connection and so you may get a warning from your browser software.

Alternatively, the revised BT Openreach website ( <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband> ) is available.

Doug Ashworth

Chair, Killearn Broadband Group