



# Department for Culture Media & Sport

Ministerial Support Team  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000  
F: 020 7211 6309

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)  
[MinisterialSupportTeam@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MinisterialSupportTeam@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

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Dr Philip Coates  
request 198759-19735a84@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Dr Coates,

Thank you for your email of 21 February about BDUK. I have been asked to reply and I apologise for the delay.

Your concerns have been noted. As you are aware the Government is committed to making sure that the benefits of improved broadband services are felt by as many homes and businesses in the UK as possible. That is why £530million of central government funding, matched by local authorities, is being invested to deliver superfast broadband to more than 4 million homes and businesses that would not otherwise receive it. These premises are in areas where it would not have been commercially viable to deploy broadband without subsidy. The target for the Government funding is to provide 90 per cent of the population with access to superfast broadband, and the rest of the population with access to at least 2 Mbps service. That target is expected to be reached by early 2016.

Earlier this year a further £250million tranche of funding was announced to extend superfast coverage to 95 per cent of premises by 2017. Together with the industry, the Government is exploring how to expand coverage further, using more innovative fixed, wireless and mobile broadband solutions, to reach at least 99 per cent of premises in the UK by 2018. In the Autumn Statement an additional £10 million competitive fund was announced for 2014 to market test innovative solutions for delivering superfast broadband services to the most difficult to reach areas of the UK.

As to the benefits of the Government's investment, the UK Broadband Impact Study by analysts SQW (with Cambridge Econometrics) revealed quantitative evidence around the economic, social and environmental impacts of superfast broadband. Key findings on the impact of Government's broadband investment include: excellent value for taxpayer money with a net return of £20 for every £1 spent by 2024; and a significant short-term boost to the UK economy as the network construction adds around £1.5 billion to the economy; adding £0.5 billion and about 11,000 jobs in 2014 alone.



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I hope you find this information helpful.

Shaida Tahid  
**Ministerial Support Team**