



Department for Culture Media & Sport

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Our Ref: CMS/275987/SJA

Mr Doug Paulley
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30 December 2015

Dear Mr Paulley

Thank you for your email of 26 November to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) regarding Exchange Only (EO) lines in Wetherby. I am replying as a member of the Ministerial Support Team at DCMS.

The Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) office, located within in our Department is partnering with local Government to deliver broadband locally. Around Wetherby, this is through a local council based organisation called 'Superfast West Yorkshire'. The Department provides only the funding, matched by local partners. The Superfast West Yorkshire Project has a contracting process that identifies exchanges and cabinets to be fibre enabled and the timeframe to do it. The choice of lines, cabinet and exchange priorities is a matter for these contract discussions between Superfast West Yorkshire and its providers to get best value for public money to update fibre connections to the most premises to get the fastest speed uplift.

As you may be aware, £1.7 billion of public funding has been committed to support improvements in broadband services across the UK. Over £11.5 million of central Government funding has been allocated to the Superfast West Yorkshire Project. The Council and other local bodies have also put significant resource into this project, with an additional £972,200 of their own. This is a substantial commitment by local and national government for broadband rollout.

Over 57,000 homes and businesses are now able to access superfast broadband West Yorkshire and York as a result of the local project, with the aim to have over 85,000 premises to have access to superfast broadband due to public investment when Phase 2 of the Superfast West Yorkshire Project is complete. Including commercial roll out, this will bring superfast coverage in West Yorkshire and York to approach 94 per cent of premises.

Nationally, the Department modelled that about 4 per cent of connections nationally are EO Lines. When it comes to resolving the 'final 5 per cent' Exchange Only lines make up almost 24 per cent of connections needing to be resolved. The Department does not hold



exact numbers for Wetherby. The Superfast West Yorkshire project may be able to give you more detailed information on this. Phase one of Superfast West Yorkshire is just winding up, and phase two is beginning, and running until 2018. Further phases will follow as underspend, remaining funds and gain share are reinvested. This re-investment will include EO Lines as part of their work. In some cases resolutions for EO lines will not involve a FTTC solution, but could include fibre to the premises, along with new technologies like regenerators as part of the solution.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Regards,

Syed Ali

Ministerial Support Team