

## Growth & Investment Unit

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**Falkirk Council**  
*Development Services*

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Your Ref:

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Mr. James Hardy

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### Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

I refer to your e-mail dated 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014. This has been dealt with as an information request under the above Act.

I am pleased to enclose the information requested, and would clarify Falkirk Council's participation in the Digital Scotland investment project.

Broadband is not a public utility and as such is not a service that is provided by Falkirk Council.

The Digital Scotland project is to provide significant areas in Scotland with broadband capacity and is focused on rural areas with limited or no broadband. The Falkirk Council area is on the whole well served by broadband. We recognise that there are some small pockets of Falkirk which are not well served and note the difficulties experienced in new Carron village. Unfortunately we are unable to assist in extending this provision.

The Scottish Government investment to increase broadband capacity has been focused on those areas in Scotland which are not supplied adequately by market operators. Some Councils have supplemented that spend to bring forward increased capacity within their own areas. When looking at this option for the Falkirk area, Falkirk Council was advised by Digital Scotland that due to the existing available speeds and capacity (accepting that some areas were not well serviced) any Scottish Government allocation of broadband investment would not be prioritised to the Falkirk area. Due to the national approach to investment by Digital Scotland any additional funding made by the Council would not bring forward additional investment in our area and would be adversely affected by the capacity of telecoms companies to upgrade exchanges in priority areas. On this basis, the Council is unable to progress the matter.

Latest estimates provided by Digital Scotland show investment to the Falkirk Exchange between October

Yours sincerely  
Pete Reid (Manager Growth and Investment Unit)

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