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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government  
Summary of Responses and Outcomes of the  
Consultation

# Next Generation Access Broadband Infrastructure Consultation in Wales

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Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

## **Summary**

The Next Generation Access Broadband Infrastructure Consultation in Wales was undertaken from 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016. By request, an extension was granted until 04<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for three respondents.

The purpose of this public consultation was to confirm the areas which do not have Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure delivering at least 30Mbps, or where there are no plans to provide such infrastructure over the next three years.

This consultation enabled telecommunications companies and all other interested stakeholders to comment on the proposed NGA intervention area before further coverage is committed.

## **Background**

The Superfast Cymru contract to deliver superfast broadband to a defined intervention area was awarded to British Telecommunications (BT) on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 with State Aid approved public funding of £205m. Following its most recent public consultation between 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014, the Welsh Government extended the contract with BT to cover a further defined intervention area with State Aid approved public funding of £19.4m.

The contract with BT includes provisions to ensure that the full amount of public funding is deployed. Additionally, in the event that take-up of superfast broadband services exceeds the forecasts set out in the contract, the amount of public subsidy required would subsequently be reduced to reflect this. Any funds released are then available to be reinvested into further coverage of superfast broadband under the terms of the contract.

In August 2015, BT announced that take-up across the UK was likely to exceed the forecast level of 20%. To date, BT has made available up to £129m across the UK to meet the contractual obligations outlined above. The Welsh Government has received an initial allocation of £12.9m and intends to reinvest this in further coverage under the current contract.

To facilitate this reinvestment at was undertaken public consultation to confirm the areas which do not have

Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure delivering at least 30Mbps, or where there are no plans to provide such infrastructure over the next three years. These are described as “White NGA areas”.

The consultation invited telecommunications companies and all interested stakeholders to comment on the proposed white NGA areas. The responses would help inform future Welsh Government investment.

## Consultation Details

### **Duration:**

The consultation was open between: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016. By request, an extension was granted until 04/11/2016 for three respondents.

### **Website Location:**

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/next-generation-access-broadband-infrastructure-wales>

Please see Appendix A for a copy of this correspondence.

## Responses

The consultation received two formal responses.

**Received:** (13/10/16) 19:05 from Rory Sherwood-Parkin

**Profile:** Virgin Media

**Correspondence:** Consultation response, containing a number of postcodes where Virgin Media either has coverage or is planning to within three years and a number of postcodes which they consider to unlikely to be enabled within 3 years. Although the submission did not include supporting evidence as requested, Virgin Media is considered an approved telecommunications provider from previous open market reviews, therefore the relevant postcodes were incorporated within the consultation. This approach was agreed with Broadband Delivery UK. Please note this response is subject to a non disclosure agreement and has therefore not been published.

**Result:** The list of postcodes with coverage were incorporated within the consultation.

**Received:** (14/10/16) 15:19 from Steffan Davies

**Profile:** ResQ

**Correspondence:** Consultation response, containing a number of postcodes of past and present customers which have or have received a wireless service and are therefore potentially able to obtain a 30mbps

wireless connection subject to survey. Following a review by the Welsh Government and Broadband Delivery UK the supporting evidence was found to contain significant gaps. This was communicated to ResQ (21/10/16) with a request for further information and an extension until (04/11/16) to provide it. No further correspondence from ResQ was received and therefore the submission was discounted. Please note this response is subject to business confidentiality clauses and has therefore not been published.  
**Result:** The submission was discounted and not incorporated within the consultation.

### **Other Correspondence**

The consultation also received the following correspondence:

**Received:** (09/09/16) 14:51 from Walter Willcox  
**Profile:** General Public  
**Correspondence:** Issue reported with interactive map  
**Result:** On investigation no issue was identified.  
Response provided (12/09/2016) 15:40

**Received:** (26/09/16) 10:58 from Clive Downey  
**Profile:** ResQ I.T and Telecoms (Telecommunications solutions and support)  
**Correspondence:** Further explanation of the consultation document requested  
**Result:** Telephone call from Oliver Jarvis (Welsh Government), Clive Downey and Steffan Davies provided (27/09/16).

**Received:** (07/10/16) 14:08 from Clive Downey  
**Profile:** ResQ I.T and Telecoms (Telecommunications solutions and support)  
**Correspondence:** 'Basic Broadband' Definition requested and subsequently an extension (12/10/16) 10:40  
**Result:** Definition provided 12/10/16; extension provided (12/10/16) 12:49 until 17:00 14/10/16

**Sent:** (11/10/16) 16:02 to Claire Brown (organisation unknown), Rory Sherwood-Parkin (Virgin Media).  
**Correspondence:** Extension for submission provided until (14/10/16) 17:00

## Next Steps

Using the Address Base Premium (Release 34) for Wales as a base data set, the following data sets were applied to the to generate the NGA postcode list.

- Virgin Media consultation response postcodes
- Superfast Cymru tested and verified premises at 24MBps +
- Virgin Media planned roll-out data provided by Broadband Delivery UK.
- BT planned deployment (Superfast Cymru)
- Previous Open Market Review grey and black postcodes
- Open Market Review 2014 City Centre Exclusion Zones
- Airband intervention area premises

Where one or more premise within each postcode is already served or is planned to be served within the next three years, it was removed accordance to the consultation. The remaining list contained 8,513 postcodes, equating to 58,504 premises. This list is therefore defined as the White NGA Area Postcode list.

This list was submitted to and cleared by Broadband Delivery UK's (BDUK) National Competence Centre and will now be used to plan future reinvestment.

## Appendix A – Mail shot

**From:** NGA  
**Sent:** 09 September 2016 10:14  
**To:** NGA  
**Subject:** Next Generation Access Broadband Infrastructure Consultation in Wales - Ymgynghoriad ynghylch Seilwaith i roi Mynediad i Fand Eang y Genhedlaeth Nesaf yng Nghymru

The Welsh Government is aiming to further extend the availability of superfast broadband across Wales.

The purpose of this public consultation is to confirm the areas which do not have Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure delivering at least 30Mbps, or where there are no plans to provide such infrastructure over the next three years. These areas are described as “White NGA Areas”.

Telecommunications providers, the public and businesses are invited to comment on the proposed White NGA Areas. The responses received as a result of this Consultation will help inform future Welsh Government policy activity.

The consultation letter, map and associated data can be accessed below.

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/next-generation-access-broadband-infrastructure-wales>

This NGA Consultation runs from 9th September 2016 to 9th October 2016.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu ehangu'r gwasanaeth band eang cyflym iawn ymhellach drwy Gymru.

Diben yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus hwn yw cadarnhau'r ardaloedd hynny lle nad oes seilwaith i ddarparu mynediad i wasanaeth band eang y genhedlaeth nesaf (NGA) sy'n cynnig cyflymder o 30Mbps o leiaf, neu'r ardaloedd hynny lle nad oes unrhyw gynlluniau i greu seilwaith o'r fath dros y tair blynedd nesaf. Disgrifir yr ardaloedd hyn fel “Ardaloedd NGA Gwyn”.

Gwahoddir cwmnïau telathrebu, y cyhoedd a busnesau i roi sylwadau ar yr Ardaloedd NGA Gwyn arfaethedig. Bydd yr ymatebion a ddaw i law o ganlyniad i'r ymgynghoriad hwn o gymorth i Lywodraeth Cymru wrth iddi ddatblygu polisïau.

Mae modd gweld y llythyr ymgynghori, y map a'r data cysylltiedig isod.

<https://ymgyngoriadau.llyw.cymru/ymgyngoriadau/ymgyngghoriad-ynghylch-seilwaith-i-roi-mynediad-i-fand-eang-y-genhedlaeth-nesaf-yng>

Bydd yr Ymgynghoriad NGA hwn yn dechrau ar 9 Medi 2016 a daw i ben ar 9 Hydref 2016.

**NGA Consultation Team - Tîm Ymgynghori**

Welsh Government - Llywodraeth Cymru

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