

Julie James AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau a Thechnoleg
Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-633
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00269/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

16 April 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April regarding the Superfast Cymru roll-out in the Maerdy area in relation to the petition to raise awareness of poor broadband.

My officials have checked postcodes within the LL21 area and have found that premises are scheduled for roll-out as a result of the Superfast Cymru programme. The list of postcodes (known as schedule 4) which are within the programme's intervention area can be accessed via the Welsh Government website. The petitioners can use this list to check whether their specific postcode is included via the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs//decisions/2013/business/140523dlbus363doc3.pdf>

The roll-out of the Superfast Cymru programme is based on delivering contracted speeds rather than the use of particular technologies and we employ the most appropriate solution to deliver these speeds. Where we are unable to provide a superfast speeds as part of the Superfast Cymru programme we intend to deliver a new project to bring superfast broadband to those areas. The new project will be delivered in two phases. Both will bring superfast broadband to areas not currently scheduled to receive it. The second phase will also specifically include those properties that were originally included under Superfast Cymru but which we were not able to complete within the main project. This phase will commence once the main Superfast Cymru roll-out has been completed.

We are currently in the procurement stage for phase one of the project. The procurement exercise for phase one commenced earlier this year, with a view to awarding a contract later this spring. It is anticipated that phase 1 will complete in line with the Superfast Cymru roll-out programme.

As an interim measure, residents in the area may be eligible for support under the Access Broadband Cymru scheme. This scheme complements the roll-out of the Superfast Cymru programme by providing those that cannot achieve broadband speeds of greater than 2Mbps, a grant up of to £900 with applicants making a ten per cent financial contribution which is in line with the cost of connection fees across the industry. The purpose of the ABC grant scheme is to help support you to obtain a broadband connection using the most appropriate technology. Further detail on this scheme is available via the Welsh Government website, including information on the eligibility criteria and application form: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/broadbandandict/broadband/abc/?lang=en> Alternatively, the petitioners that fit the criteria may contact my official Glenn Preece, the grant manager on 0300 025 8887.

Yours sincerely



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