

## [News story: Better Broadband Scheme extended to 2019](#)

The [Better Broadband Scheme](#) offers a subsidised basic broadband connection to anyone unable to get download speeds of at least 2 mbps, and who will not benefit from the superfast broadband roll out within the next 12 months.

Since its launch in December 2015, the scheme has so far boosted the broadband speeds of more than 20,000 homes and businesses in some of the hardest to reach areas of the UK.

Households and businesses that are eligible to take advantage of the scheme have the installation and hardware costs of their connection subsidised to ensure their first year costs are no more than £400.

The subsidy is used to fund a variety of technology solutions including – satellite, 4G and fixed wireless.

The closing date for applications has now been extended until 31 December 2019.

Margot James, Minister for Digital, said:

Improving broadband services for people struggling with poor connections is a top priority for the government – we want everyone to benefit from the digital revolution.

While we've helped make superfast speeds a reality for 19 out of 20 UK premises and are reaching thousands more each week, this scheme offers immediate assistance to those most in need.

The Government's superfast broadband rollout continues as part of its Industrial Strategy to ensure all homes and businesses in Britain have access to high speed broadband by 2020.

And it has also introduced the Universal Service Obligation which will give everyone the legal right to request a connection to high speed broadband. Eligible consumers will be able to request a connection under the Universal Service Obligation by the end of 2019.