

SNP on course to miss R100 by a mile

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The Scottish Conservatives have condemned the SNP's latest delays to the delivery of superfast broadband to Scotland.

R100, or the Reaching 100% programme, is the SNP's pledge to roll out superfast broadband to 100% of Scotland's inhabitants by 2021.

In a written answer to the Scottish Parliament, the SNP has today admitted there have been unexpected delays and they won't even sign a contract to deliver this flagship policy until the end of 2019.

This leaves an impossibly short time for the Scottish Government to achieve their promise.

A year ago Fergus Ewing, the rural economy secretary was so sure that this would be achieved he famously said he'd resign if the Scottish government didn't deliver it on time.

The Scottish Conservatives have therefore criticised the SNP government for leaving Scotland's rural communities at a significant disadvantage.

Jamie Greene, Scottish Conservative connectivity spokesman said:

"This is a damning revelation that the Scottish Government's flagship r100 will not be delivered on schedule.

"Far from being nearing completion we are now learning that the contracts won't even be in place until sometime in 2020.

"The SNP asked the UK Government for the powers and funding to rollout superfast broadband, but then overpromised and under delivered, leaving our remote and rural communities at a significant disadvantage.

"In an attempt to outmanoeuvre Westminster the SNP Government ended up outmanoeuvring itself; whilst superfast broadband is being rolled out to communities in England and Wales, people in Scotland are being left behind."