

B4RN can access government grant funding to upgrade small and medium sized businesses to a gigabit full-fibre internet connection.

B4RN are pleased to announce that we are a registered supplier on the Project Gigabit voucher scheme which is provided by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This scheme helps local business upgrade their Internet to 1000Mbps (1Gbps).

Fibre-based connections offer faster, more reliable Internet connectivity, and a reliable connection is now essential for businesses today - for those agricultural businesses such as farms wanting to record their live stock movements and complete Single Farm Payments, or businesses wanting to connect to the Cloud and increase productivity and future-proof ready for the digital challenges of tomorrow.

The scheme helps to cover some of the costs of getting B4RN to your door. The funding is to assist with the costs of installing the service and cannot be used towards the monthly service charges.

Eligibility

Your business must be an SME or a Sole Trader/ Partnership and meets the following requirements set out by DCMS:

- Employs fewer than 250 people.
- Annual turnover is less than £50M.
- Balance sheet of less than £43M.
- Must have received less than £200,000 of State Aid in the last 3 years. This is the de minimus limit and it applies to agriculture, so most farms will be eligible.
- The business must not be a subsidiary and/or under the control of a large non-SME entity.
- The business operates from the premises for which the voucher is being applied (employees working from home are not eligible).

All businesses wishing to take part in the scheme must sign up for a minimum 12 months' service.

Dig grant worth £150 available for businesses to install ducting to their property from their boundary.

All businesses will receive a 'Free Connection' worth £150.

You must select a preferred £150 dig grant option:

- 1. You decide to dig the duct in and install the fibre boxes yourself. The dig grant will be paid to you directly by B4RN.**
- 2. You book and pay for a B4RN approved contractor to carry out the works on your behalf. The dig grant will be paid to you directly by B4RN, it is your responsibility to pay the contractor and any additional costs above the dig grant value.**
- 3. It may be possible that your local volunteer group are able to carry out the works for you. If this is arranged, then B4RN will pay the dig grant directly to the local volunteer group.**

Please note: To qualify for payment of your Dig Grant you must have paid 1 months service and confirmed your live connection to the DCMS.

What happens next

- We will request the voucher through the DCMS Portal prior to your connection being installed.
- You will get an email from DCMS asking for you to confirm that you are happy to go ahead, this must be validated within 28 days or the voucher will be automatically cancelled.
- The work within your property boundary is either completed by yourself, a local contractor, or your local group.
- We work to get you live and connected to B4RN.
- Once your service is live DCMS will email you again for you to confirm that you have live service.
- Please ensure you confirm to DCMS that you have live service by clicking their email link, otherwise B4RN will not receive the funding to cover the costs of connecting you. B4RN will temporarily disconnect you if you do not click the link within 14 days of receiving the email from DCMS.
- Once confirmed, DCMS pay the voucher value to B4RN.
- B4RN pays you the £150 dig grant if you (or a contractor on your behalf) did the installation of the ducting on your own property.