



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

***Faster  
Broadband***

***Find your  
solution***

## **We want homes and businesses in Wales to be able to access fast and reliable digital connectivity.**

Most homes and businesses in Wales have access to good quality digital connectivity. We have invested significant public funding to help achieve this through our roll-outs of fibre broadband technology. However, there are still some properties without access to a fast broadband connection.

Although many properties use a fibre based broadband connection, there is no one size fits all solution for accessing faster speeds. There are a range of different technology options.

Before looking at the options available for getting faster broadband, **see if you already have access to a fast broadband connection.**

### **Check:**

- Ofcom's broadband availability checker at: **[checker.ofcom.org.uk](https://checker.ofcom.org.uk)**
- Broadband information and guides, including an availability checker and coverage maps, at: **[thinkbroadband.com](https://thinkbroadband.com)**

If you do have access, you will need to upgrade or place an order with a provider. This won't happen automatically.

- Advice on ordering fibre broadband at: **[gov.wales/broadband-in-wales](https://gov.wales/broadband-in-wales)**

## Which technologies can I use to access faster broadband speeds?

Most properties use a fibre based connection. However, there are other **options available to boost broadband speeds**. New technologies are continually emerging, so if you cannot currently get a fast broadband service, you should consider all the solutions available. Existing technologies are quickly evolving, meaning solutions you might have discounted previously may now be an option for you.

Some of these technologies include:

### A satellite connection



A satellite transfers data to and from a dish attached to your property to bring you broadband. This provides superfast download speeds and should be available everywhere.

Satellite internet has been around for some time. However, new technologies are now available such as Low Earth Orbit (LEO) or next generation satellite that can provide speeds of over 100Mbps.

Satellite dishes need to be installed where they have an unobstructed view of the sky. Satellite dishes can be self-installed, or you can use a TV aerial or satellite installation company or a local broadband provider to install it for you.

Some companies have already launched satellites and packages are available from them to premises in Wales. Satellite dishes for broadband services are now also available from some electronics retailers or department stores.



**Search online:**  
Next Generation  
Satellite Internet

#### **Check:**

- **Directly with satellite providers**
- **With local broadband installers**
- **Electronic retailers and department stores**

## A mobile 4G / 5G broadband solution



Properties may be able to access a faster broadband connection using the mobile 4G or 5G network.

This doesn't mean using a mobile phone and you don't need cables or a phone line. A mobile broadband connection is delivered to your property through a 4G or 5G router or a Wi-Fi dongle.

If there isn't a strong 4G or 5G signal indoors, you can attach an external antenna to your property. You can visit Ofcom's

mobile coverage checker to see the signal strength of network providers.

All the major mobile operators – 3, EE, O2 and Vodafone, offer mobile broadband services and unlimited data packages are available.

### **Check:**

- **Ofcom's mobile coverage checker**
- **All the major mobile operators' websites to compare tariffs and coverage**

## A fixed wireless connection



An antenna is used to pick up a broadband signal from a mast to deliver broadband to your property, eliminating the need for cable or phone lines.

You will need a line of sight between the receiver on your property and the mast. Sometimes obstructions such as trees, foliage or man-made structures can interfere and block the signal.

Fixed wireless is available in some rural areas where

there is not yet access to fibre broadband. You can talk to your neighbours, local broadband providers, or your local authority, to find out what might be available in your area.

### **Check:**

- **Directly with local broadband providers**
- **Ofcom's broadband availability checker**
- **With neighbours and your local authority**

# Is there support available to help me connect to faster broadband?

## Project Gigabit

The UK Government has set an ambitious target of full gigabit coverage by 2030. They are delivering in Wales through their flagship Project Gigabit programme. It targets homes and businesses that are not included in broadband suppliers' plans, reaching parts of the UK that might otherwise miss out on getting the digital connectivity they need.

**Check the UK Government's website for more information on Project Gigabit.**



**Visit:** [gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme](https://gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme)

## Local Authority Support

Some local authorities have broadband engagement officers who can help you with your questions. There are also local authorities that have their own broadband roll-out plans. We developed a Local Broadband Fund aimed at local authorities and social enterprises to help them deliver these plans.

**Check:** with your local authority to talk to a broadband engagement officer or see if you are included in local broadband plans.

## Access Broadband Cymru Grant Scheme

The Welsh Government's Access Broadband Cymru Grant Scheme helps residents and businesses in Wales get connected to faster broadband. If you can't access broadband through any other means, you can apply for funding to install a broadband solution at your premises. The solution you choose must provide a minimum average download speed of at least 30 Mbps after installation.

**For more information on the Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme and other support available –**



**visit:** [gov.wales/broadband-in-wales](https://gov.wales/broadband-in-wales)