

Open Market Review

Dates: 9 December 2022 – 27 January 2023



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Northern Ireland

PROJECT GIGABIT



Index

Index	1
Introduction	2
Why should suppliers participate in this Open Market Review?	3
Project Gigabit – Progress to Date	4
Geographical Scope	5
Key Eligibility Requirements for Subsidy	8
Commercial Process	10
The Role of DfE	11
Making a Data Response	11
Submission Requirements	13
Evidence to demonstrate how planned investments are credible	14
Date for Return	15
Annex A: Data Submission Format	16
Annex B: Supporting Evidence	26
Annex C: Technical Definition	29



Introduction

The government's ambition is to deliver nationwide gigabit-capable broadband as soon as possible. We recognise that there is a need for government intervention in the parts of the country that are not commercially viable. This is why the government has committed £5 billion for the hardest to reach parts of the country, ensuring that all areas of the UK can benefit. This will be spent through a package of coordinated and mutually supportive interventions, collectively known as Project Gigabit.

As part of this, the Department for the Economy (DfE) in Northern Ireland, along with Building Digital UK (BDUK), is developing a procurement approach for funding contracts to suppliers delivering gigabit-capable wholesale infrastructure. This procurement approach will be a successor to the highly successful Superfast broadband programme and Project Stratum. As a result of significant commercial investment and vital public intervention in Northern Ireland, an increasing number of homes and businesses now have access to improved broadband services, with gigabit-capable accessibility now the highest in the UK. As such, it may be the case that a future procurement under Project Gigabit may be smaller in scale to ongoing deployment under Project Stratum. However, the scale and scope of a target intervention area will only be known as a result of extensive analysis of data following an Open Market Review and a subsequent Public Review.

We wish to work collaboratively with industry to maximise efficiency, minimise market distortion and achieve our objectives within a tight timeframe. To do this, we must first identify the intervention areas that currently are not commercially viable, where no infrastructure exists or is planned to be built within the next three years (however, we are also interested in plans beyond this period, if available). Where suppliers have credible plans that extend beyond the three-year horizon then these should be included in your submission to DfE, who will share this information with BDUK. All planned build should be supported with detailed evidence as set out in the section "Submission Requirements" of this RFI.

Once the eligibility of the premises has been assessed through an Open Market Review and validated through the subsequent Public Review stage, the premises identified by DfE and BDUK as eligible will be grouped, if practicable, into appropriately sized intervention areas,



or one large single intervention area, to ensure that the right areas are targeted for government investment taking into consideration market engagement.

We invite suppliers to provide us with information and data related to their infrastructure within Northern Ireland. We intend to review this together with data available through Ofcom's [Connected Nations](#) publication to allow us to carry out an assessment of existing and planned broadband connectivity.

Forming the intervention area(s) will include taking: information learned from Ofcom Connected Nations data; publicly available supplier information about build and planned build; and information that we can gather through this Open Market Review and the forthcoming Public Review.

In this way, working with suppliers, we hope to build a comprehensive dataset across Northern Ireland. DfE, working collaboratively with BDUK, will use this information to inform the size and scale of the intervention area(s) if appropriate. The intervention area(s) will be issued to the market so that suppliers can bid for funding to support delivery to those areas.

Why should suppliers participate in this Open Market Review?

Our goal is to ensure we target the parts of Northern Ireland that need government support first. By working with us, you will help to maximise the use of public subsidy to help provide ever faster, better connectivity across all parts of Northern Ireland. This will help us to identify areas which will be left out because they are not commercially viable, thereby bringing significant benefits to the economy.

We actively encourage responses to this OMR with any existing network coverage, or planned infrastructure build within the next three years. This means we can ensure we target the right areas for public subsidy, and avoid over-building viable commercial planned infrastructure.

You may have responded to a previous Project Gigabit Open Market Review or Public Review that includes information relating to Northern Ireland. You should not assume that this information has been shared with DfE, and we would therefore recommend that you



consider making a formal response to this OMR, in order to provide us with your latest dataset. We are aware that deployment plans can often change and we require the latest data to evaluate your coverage accurately.

However, if your last submission is still valid (i.e. it remains accurate in terms of your build plan, coverage claim, technology deployed, or planned to be deployed, financing arrangements and deployment plan timescales), please confirm it can be shared with DfE. Without confirmation of this, BDUK and DfE will be unable to use submissions from previous processes.

Project Gigabit – Progress to Date

The Project Gigabit intervention has made significant progress to date in shaping the strategy for delivery, including the procurement approach. To get this right, BDUK has carried out significant market engagement, talking to many suppliers since 2019.

A number of Project Gigabit contracts have already been awarded by BDUK under the Programme.

Further information can be found via the Broadband Investment pages published [here](#).



Geographical Scope

This Request for Information (RFI) will allow us to identify potential Intervention areas for Government subsidy. This Open Market Review RFI is concerned with Northern Ireland and the map below (Figure 1) shows the planned geographic boundary.

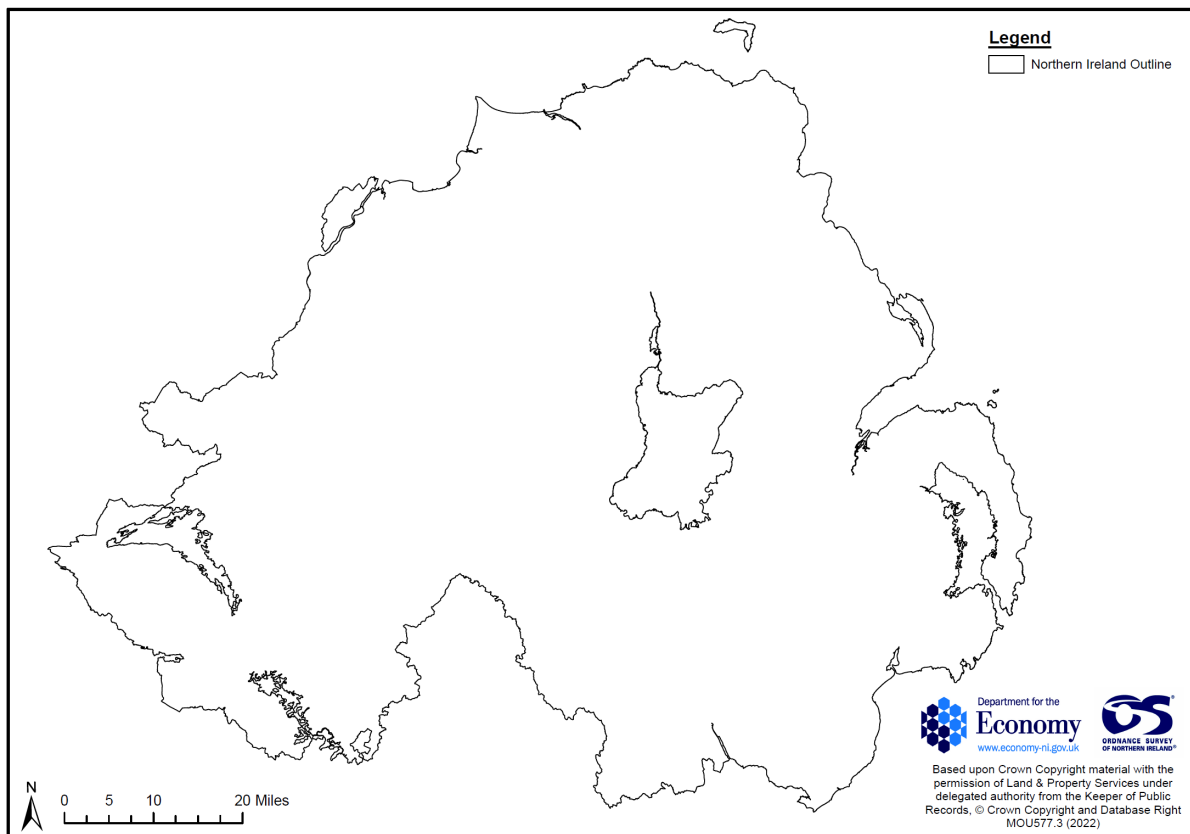


Figure 1 - Geographic Boundary of Open Market Review

Please note, during the Open Market Review, Public Review and Pre-Procurement Market Engagement processes, should any changes occur in relation to this RFI, BDUK/DfE will ensure that it is communicated in a transparent manner in order to remain consistent with the principles of the Gigabit Infrastructure Scheme. We would remind you that if you have existing network coverage, or plan to build infrastructure, then please provide details in your response to this OMR.



DfE will supply a template for the Open Market Review (as outlined in Annex A), showing the UPRNs across Northern Ireland that we consider relevant to the Open Market Review process.

These UPRNs have been sourced from data held by Land & Property Services. Land & Property Services (LPS) are part of the Department of Finance and collect, process and manage land and property information, which underpins the collection of rates, in support of the Executive's commitment to economic and social development in Northern Ireland. They provide a range of services including valuing all domestic and non-domestic properties in Northern Ireland, maintaining valuation lists, carrying out general revaluations, supplying mapping information for Northern Ireland and providing records and data about place and location. We are specifically focussing on data for Northern Ireland in November 2022.

To access this information you will need to sign a Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement (NIMA) Sub-licence MOU577.3 and LPS Beta Version IP S&T-S789 Sub-Licence. Please email gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk to request copies of these licences.

We also require suppliers to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with DfE, who will share supplier information with BDUK. If this is not already in place, please email gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk to initiate this process.

For more information about current coverage in Northern Ireland, please refer to the Ofcom Connected Nations report, which contains more information about connectivity, including speed data. BDUK will endeavour to publish on a rolling basis the coverage information which can be found at this web link: [Digital Connectivity Portal](#).



Purpose of this Open Market Review Request For Information

We are launching this Open Market Review (OMR) Request for Information (RFI) to establish existing and planned coverage of broadband services within the aforementioned geographic area outlined above over the next three years (and beyond, if available). We seek responses from all existing and prospective broadband infrastructure suppliers that operate, or are planning to operate, within the geography.

This OMR process, seeking credible data, will be followed by a formal Public Review. (This was known as the Public Consultation under the Superfast Programme, a former broadband coverage subsidy intervention). BDUK and DfE apply a best practice approach that includes an OMR and a Public Review. We consider that early market research at this stage is an important part of our market engagement to shape public investment plans. The results of the OMR will assist us with understanding the broadband infrastructure (whether basic, NGA, ultrafast or gigabit-capable) already in place and where there are plans for investment in such infrastructure in the forthcoming three years (and beyond). The RFI will enable us to make a significant step in the design of the area(s) to be targeted by the new procurement(s) and contract(s).

For information received as a result of this request we will evaluate the suppliers' responses. During the evaluation exercise, we may engage with suppliers further to discuss and confirm their coverage claims. Following this, we will be able to determine the eligibility of the premises for government subsidy. The flowchart below (Figure 2) shows a summary of how the OMR process works.

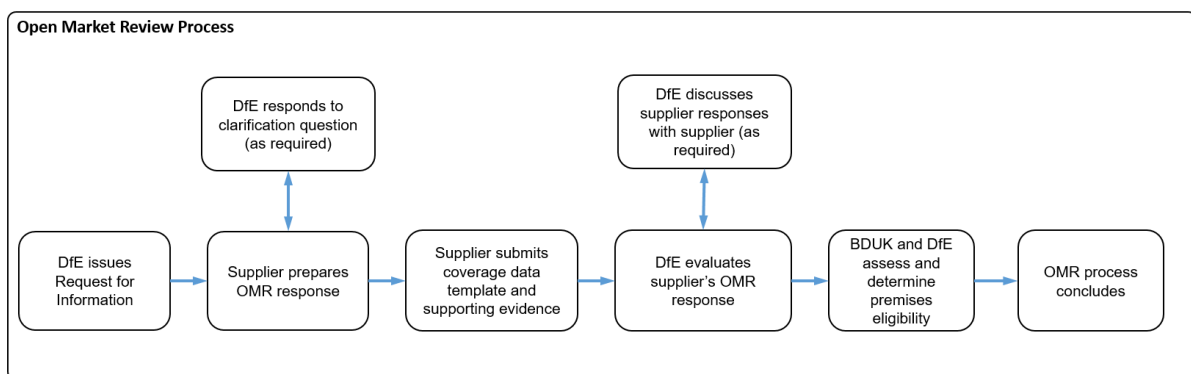


Figure 2 - Open Market Review Process



We will then conduct a Public Review to validate the results of the OMR, including seeking validation of the eligibility of the premises for subsidy. The Public Review will take place over the period of at least one month, and once concluded will confirm the eligibility of the premises for procurement(s). The full details of these procurements will follow the conclusion of this OMR and Public Review. The flowchart below shows the order of processes, from OMR to procurement.

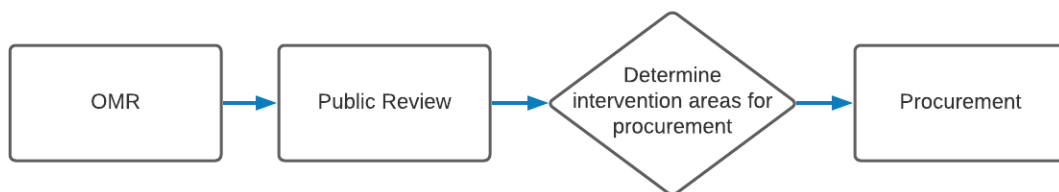


Figure 3 - OMR to Procurement

For further information about how BDUK evaluates and classifies supplier responses please see Open Market Review & Public Review Subsidy Control Classification Guidance [here](#). DfE will be also following this approach to evaluate and classify supplier responses.

Key Eligibility Requirements for Subsidy

As previously mentioned further information about how DfE plans to evaluate and classify supplier responses please see Open Market Review & Public Review Subsidy Control Classification Guidance [here](#).

The outcome of this OMR and the forthcoming PR will be shown in terms of 'White', 'Grey', 'Black' and 'Under Review' premises. We will only subsidise build to premises which have been designated as White.

- **White** - indicates premises with no gigabit network infrastructure and none is likely to be developed within three years. Annex C provides information on the technology 'qualifying' as gigabit capable.
- **Black** - indicates premises with two or more qualifying gigabit infrastructures from different suppliers being available, or will be deployed in the coming three years.



- **Grey** - indicates premises where a single qualifying gigabit infrastructure from a single supplier is available, or is to be deployed within the coming three years.
- **Under Review** - indicates premises where suppliers have reported current or planned commercial broadband coverage, but where claimed current gigabit coverage has not been verified, or, in respect of planned build, where evaluators are confident that gigabit infrastructure will be delivered, but some risks to delivery remain, or there are some gaps in evidence.

Premises categorised as Under Review will be subject to continued monitoring and verification of supplier plans within the three-year period by DfE. DfE may request commitment from the supplier that significant progress is made within three years. In the event that these commercial plans fall away, these premises will be mapped as eligible and form part of the proposed intervention area and so eligible for intervention via this aid measure. We request that suppliers inform us regarding all plans, including plans beyond the initial three-year period.

DfE classifies premises on the basis of their existing or planned broadband infrastructure, as set out in Annexes B and C in line with BDUK practice. The OMR and PR data analysis of supplier broadband coverage claims is undertaken at UPRN (premises) level.

Once the OMR has closed, if additional information or clarifications are required, DfE will raise Clarification Questions with suppliers before deciding on a classification.

Treatment of Broadband Vouchers Data

Coverage claims received from suppliers utilising Vouchers funding will be evaluated in accordance with the Subsidy Control evaluation process. This means that suppliers' claims will be assessed against the technology solution being gigabit-capable for existing infrastructure.

Typically, Vouchers premises will be categorised as follows:

- Projects, or before Voucher is issued - “White” (BDUK data assessment indicates a very low chance that these UPRNs will be built to).



- Voucher issued - “Under Review” (around 4% chance UPRN will not be delivered).
- Voucher claimed - “Grey” (should be gigabit-connected).

Further information on the Subsidy Control evaluation process, including BDUK treatment of other BDUK intervention data (Superfast, LFFN (Local Full Fibre Network), Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC), Gigahubs) can be found within the Open Market Review & Public Review Subsidy Control Classification Guidance [here](#). DfE will follow the same approach.

Commercial Process

BDUK will budget an appropriate amount of public funding from the Project Gigabit Programme for each intervention, at the procurement stage to DfE. The budget will be specified within the Invitation to Tender (ITT) documentation, following the Public Review. Details of any restrictions on the use of public subsidy will be explained in the tender documentation. It is DfE’s intention to procure gigabit-capable solutions – those capable of achieving a minimum of 1Gbps download speed - for the identified areas in scope for gigabit-capable deployment.

Suppliers have the opportunity, during the OMR and Public Review processes, to share with DfE any firm and credible investment plans that may mean that public subsidy will not be warranted. It will be important for this OMR and the Public Review to establish these plans. Please see Annex B for guidance on how supporting evidence is used to assess coverage.

Please note that final Intervention Areas may be a subset of the premises classified as White in the subsidy assessment and will be subject to BDUK or DfE overlays, including other active/planned BDUK or DfE interventions (e.g. Project Stratum).



The Role of DfE

DfE will answer questions, evaluate supplier responses, assess data accuracy, support the build phase and engage with the local community. Sharing the premises data set out within the intervention area, during the OMR and Public Review stages will help us gain further confidence that the proposed interventions are eligible for subsidy.

DfE will assess and review the data relevant to the Northern Ireland intervention area. DfE will be responsible for the data.

This Request for Information is being carried out independently of any activities that local councils may be undertaking, for example, under Project Stratum,

Making a Data Response

To submit a data response, please follow the steps below, as well as referring to the guidance provided in Annex A:

- Sign the appropriate NIMA sub licence agreement and relevant Non-Disclosure Agreement, which will be required before downloading the data. Please return this, as soon as possible to gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk.
- Once you have done this, we will provide you with login details to our secure file transfer portal where you will be able to download the response templates.
- You may seek clarification, on making a data response, at any time from 9 December 2022 – 27 January 2023. Please send these questions to us at gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk.
- You should make your data submission to us via the secure file transfer portal. Please upload the data response template and any further supporting evidence you feel you should send.
- Please do not assume that we will use a previous submission for this RFI. If you wish for a previous submission to be treated as your return for this RFI, please get in touch to confirm this.



- Please include all current and planned premises coverage of the premises base provided in the template files in Annex A.
- Please include any existing or planned infrastructure you have gained with assistance from Government subsidy for example: Vouchers, Superfast (NBS 2012 or NBS 2016) and Hubs (Local Full Fibre Networks and Rural Gigabit Connectivity Programmes).

Please note that the data you provide in your response will be treated as commercially confidential, albeit that it may be necessary to share some/all of your response data with our professional advisors, DCMS/BDUK, Ofcom and BEIS Subsidy Control Branch. We will use this information to define the intervention areas (only) following the Public Review.

Please ensure that you engage with us as soon as possible to confirm whether you would require DfE to put in place an NDA enabling us to share data between each other as part of this OMR process. If you already have a signed NDA in place with BDUK through previous processes, this may not be required again.

It should also be noted that it is a requirement to use this information to produce maps to define 'White', 'Grey', 'Black' and 'Under Review' areas for gigabit-capable broadband. However, the published maps will show the aggregated 'White', 'Grey', 'Black' and 'Under Review' broadband areas, not the data provided on a per-operator basis. The final maps and UPRNs that will be used for procurement purposes will be published shortly after the conclusion of this Public Review and once approved by the National Competence Centre.

You should be aware that it is DfE's intention to provide an address checker during the Public Review stage to allow individual to check on the availability of services at specific individual addresses. DfE will take appropriate safeguards to ensure that access is limited.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk.



Submission Requirements

Responses to this OMR RFI must include the following:

1. A data submission that should cover your current and planned premise coverage (i.e. premises served by your network, or planned to be served by your network) as per the format outlined in **Annex A**:
 - The required data templates will be provided through a secure portal
 - Please include all current and planned premises coverage of the premises base provided in the template files.
 - We would also be interested in all current and planned premises coverage of any further premises not listed in the template files located in Northern Ireland.
 - Additional guidance can be provided to suppliers if required, please contact gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk for support.
2. Your completed **Supporting Evidence documentation**, which must include a response to the questions outlined in **Annex B**.
3. DfE would also like to hear from operators their views as to the types of wholesale access products they would like to see offered on any newly created subsidised network infrastructure. This information may inform the intervention design. Please note that we are not obliged to include these products in the invitation to tender.

Please note that where your coverage claims are for gigabit-capable networks, then your response detailing your proposed network design and architecture must consider the technical definition as outlined in **Annex C**.



Evidence to demonstrate how planned investments are credible

There are three essential areas against which DfE will evaluate your planned coverage claims to ensure the overall viability of your planned investment. Our assessment will be based on the suite of evidence you provide DfE in the Annex B: Supporting Evidence Template and will include:

- whether the **technology** you intend to deploy is gigabit capable and meets the technical criteria as outlined in Annex C: Technical Definition;
- **deliverability**, and whether your deployment plans are in line with the phases / premises passed outlined in your business plan, with the key build stages and processes outlined; and
- **commercial viability** - whether you have viable commercial plans such as sufficient access to capital and whether the drawdown of your funds aligns with your deployment plan and build programme. The information you provide should be consistent across these elements to support a joined-up evaluation of your responses.

The information you provide should be consistent across these elements to support a joined-up evaluation of your responses.

In assessing whether planned investments are credible viable, DfE may:

- review the business plans and calendar deployment plans to ensure these are consistent and in sufficient detail for each phase of the planned build.
- require evidence to demonstrate credible and plausible character of the planned investment which as a minimum should include a business plan, a detailed calendar deployment plan, evidence of adequate financing, consideration of risk and proposed technical architecture.
- ensure calendar deployment plans include the key build stages and when suppliers expect to undertake significant activities within their build programme such as design, surveying, acquisition, network build, network installation etc or the key processes involved in your build plan approach for design phase, survey phase, road notices/ wayleaves etc.



- test that funding availability is sufficient for each phase of the planned build and that the capital allocated for the specific OMR area is sufficient and is consistent with the deployment plan.
- review the terms of any financing arrangements and any dependencies and assumptions associated with the financing including repayment terms, KPIs, expected ROI, dependency on public subsidy such as GBVS vouchers or regional subsidy schemes.
- ensure that the network design and dimensioning information provided is in line with the projections made in the Business Plan regarding customer connections and growth expectations.

Further information is included in Annex B and the Supporting Evidence Template.

If your future network plans are **entirely** reliant on BDUK subsidy/interventions (e.g. Vouchers) it may not be necessary to provide a complete set of supporting evidence alongside your data submission. As outlined within section titled 'Key Eligibility Requirements for Subsidy', planned voucher build will be classified as 'White' unless a voucher has been 'issued' or 'claimed' in which case it will be classified as 'Under Review' or 'Grey' respectively. Classification of voucher build will be based on BDUK held data of voucher statuses. In all cases please do provide us with a full data submission.

Date for Return

Please submit responses to this Open Market Review by the closing date of 27 January 2023 at 3pm. DfE plan to publish the subsequent maps showing the proposed Intervention Areas, following the close of the assessment and evaluation period.

This will be followed by the launch of the Public Review, allowing suppliers, members of the public and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide their input to the proposed Intervention Areas in question.

Thank you.



Annex A: Data Submission Format

Introduction

DfE requires certain fields of data for each pertinent Northern Ireland address as identified by the Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) in order to monitor the current and future delivery of Gigabit broadband capable services. This is done by requesting data on current and future connections from relevant suppliers. The below describes the format of the BDUK/DfE request file and how to format the data to return to us. If you require any additional support, guidance or clarification with this, please get in touch with us at gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk

File formats

We have supplied one blank regional template showing the UPRNs across Northern Ireland that we consider relevant to the OMR/PR process. The purpose of providing this information to you is to present the UPRNs that we recognise and the format of the submission you should provide to us. **Your response does not need to align with this baseline** however any premises in your submission which do not align to may be filtered out in analysis. If you are likely to re-use your submission for future OMR/PRs we would actively encourage you not to align with our baseline as it may change over time.

These UPRNs have been sourced from data held by LPS. At this stage, we are specifically focussing on data for Northern Ireland. For the purposes of our broadband planning we would be grateful for your full broadband plans, including premises that are outside of the premises base provided in the template files.

Please do not pre-filter your data based on the template files, instead please provide us with your entire UPRN dataset.

If you are using the template files as the starting point for your return, please remove any UPRN rows which are not part of your current or planned network.



The information that we provide against each property/premises is as follows:

Field Name	Description	Format
strUPRN	The UPRN (see below) prepended with "STR", this is a mitigation against certain spreadsheet tools treating the UPRN as a large number and removing significant digits	Text
UPRN	The unique property reference number	Number
Single_Line_Address	Comma delimited single line address eg 1, Acacia Avenue, Anytown	Text
Postcode	Standard postcode	Text
Local_Authority_District	The local authority district	Text
Longitude	Longitude in the decimal degree format	Number
Latitude	Latitude in the decimal degree format	Number



The information that we ask for against each property/premises is as follows:

Field Name	Description	Format
Current_Technology	<p>(Complete this field for UPRNs which are RFS only)</p> <p>The technology you use for supplying that particular premises, examples of this could be ADSL, FTTP, FTTC etc</p> <p>This must be your infrastructure only, we don't require you to tell us about any other known technology serving the UPRN.</p>	Text
Current_Max_Download_Speed	<p>(Complete this field for all UPRNs with 'Current_Technology')</p> <p>The maximum download speed in Mbit/s that you are able to supply to this property. This should be a positive number only.</p> <p>Please do not add any extra information. For example, if the current technology listed provides a download speed of 1 gigabit, please enter '1000' not '1000Mbps' or '1Gb'.</p> <p>This is the maximum download speed that the technology is capable of, rather than the actual speed that the UPRN is taking up at a given time.</p>	Number
Current_Max_Upload_Speed	<p>(Complete this field for all UPRNs with 'Current_Technology')</p> <p>The maximum upload speed in Mbit/s that you are able to supply to this</p>	Number



Field Name	Description	Format
	<p>property. This should be a positive number only.</p> <p>Please do not add any extra information. For example, if the current technology listed provides a upload speed of 1 gigabit, please enter '1000' not '1000Mbps' or '1Gb'.</p> <p>This is the maximum upload speed that the technology is capable of, rather than the actual speed that the UPRN is taking up at a given time.</p>	
Future_Technology	<p>(Complete this field for UPRNs that you plan to connect only)</p> <p>The technology you intend to use for supplying that particular premises, examples of this could be FTTP, FTTC etc</p> <p>This must be your infrastructure only, we don't require you to tell us about any other known technology serving the UPRN.</p> <p>If you are upgrading Current Coverage the technology should not match Current_Technology.</p>	Text
Future_Max_Download_Speed	<p>(Complete this field for UPRNs that you plan to connect only)</p> <p>The maximum download speed in Mbit/s that you intend to be able to supply to this property. This should be a positive number only.</p>	Number



Field Name	Description	Format
	<p>Please do not add any extra information. For example, if the current technology listed provides a download speed of 1 gigabit, please enter '1000' not '1000Mbps' or '1Gb'.</p> <p>This is the maximum download speed that the technology is capable of, rather than the actual speed that the UPRN is taking up at a given time.</p>	
Future_Max_Upload_Speed	<p>(Complete this field for UPRNs that you plan to connect only)</p> <p>The maximum upload speed in Mbit/s that you intend to be able to supply to this property. This should be a positive number only.</p> <p>Please do not add any extra information. For example, if the current technology listed provides a upload speed of 1 gigabit, please enter '1000' not '1000Mbps' or '1Gb'.</p> <p>This is the maximum upload speed that the technology is capable of, rather than the actual speed that the UPRN is taking up at a given time.</p>	Number
Date_of_Future_Rollout	<p>(Complete this field for all UPRNs with 'Future_Technology')</p> <p>This should be the Ready for Service date for the premises. The date at which RSPs can offer products or services to the individual premises.</p>	DD/MM/YYYY



Field Name	Description	Format
	<p>This should not be the date that build commences.</p> <p>All Future Coverage premises should have an RFS date in this column.</p> <p>(Please always ensure that you check that the Date_Of_Future_Rollout' column has a date in the future at the time of your submission).</p>	
<p>Delivery_Phase</p>	<p>(Complete this field for all UPRNs with 'Future_Technology')</p> <p>The planned phase for any future rollout which each UPRN shall form part of, e.g. Phase 1/Phase 2 etc, Tranche 1/Tranche 2 etc., Region 1/Region 2 etc.</p> <p>These phases should align to your Calendar Deployment Plan and should correlate and be consistent with the information contained in your Supporting Evidence Pack. Please include context regarding each delivery phase in your supporting evidence such as the risks and dependencies for the successful delivery of each phase and the mitigations/arrangements that you have in place to address these risks; a description regarding your resourcing plan for each phase; key milestones within each phase and the subsequent activities/timeframes to achieve RFS.</p>	<p>Text</p>



Field Name	Description	Format
Design_Stage	<p>(Complete this field for all UPRNs with 'Current_Technology' or 'Future_Technology')</p> <p>The current phase of your future coverage such as:</p> <p>'1. Awaiting HLD' - High Level Design (HLD) has not yet been completed.</p> <p>'2. HLD complete' - HLD/area level plan has been completed. However, Low Level Design (LLD) work has not yet been completed or is in progress.</p> <p>'3. LLD complete' - Low Level Design (LLD) and survey work has been completed, however, subcontractors/build partners, or in-house resources to complete the network build, are still to be appointed.</p> <p>'4. Build team appointed' - Subcontractors / build partners or if applicable in-house civil resource has been appointed and commissioned to start the network build in accordance with the LLDs. All the necessary planning, acquisitions and wayleave agreements are finalised to allow the network to be constructed.</p> <p>'5. In build' - Network build is in progress, however premises are not yet able to take up a service.</p> <p>'6. RFS' - Network build and end-to-end testing is complete and premises are Ready for Service (RFS) ie RSPs</p>	Text



Field Name	Description	Format
	<p>are able to offer products or services to the individual premises</p> <p>Note: If you are intending to use different descriptions to those above, or if you have different interpretations of the above categories, please include full explanations of each field entry in your supporting evidence pack to accompany this data submission.</p>	
<p>Funding_Stage</p>	<p>(Complete this field for all UPRNs with 'Future_Technology')</p> <p>The current status of funding allocated to the UPRN. If your funding allocation is linked to your Delivery_Phase please reflect that in your data and explain that in your supporting evidence. Please be aware that BDUK's assessment of supplier returns will be based, in full, on the evidence requested in Annex B. As such, we cannot guarantee that we will accept how suppliers have categorised the status of their funding position. Field entries to use:</p> <p>'1. No funding planned or committed' - While you may be planning to deliver to this UPRN, the funding is not yet in place to do so and/or you are seeking funding.</p> <p>'2. Funding planned, but not committed' - You have in principle funding agreed to deliver to this UPRN, but the funding is not immediately available, requires further decisions such as Board approval, or is</p>	<p>Text</p>



Field Name	Description	Format
	<p>dependent on (for example) performance metrics.</p> <p>‘3. Funding committed’ - Funding has been identified and has been allocated to delivery of this UPRN. There are no further conditions around drawing down or using funding and the funding is ring-fenced solely for the delivery of associated premises. This should be explained clearly in your financial plan, which should be provided as part of your Supporting Evidence Pack.</p>	
<p>Public_Intervention</p>	<p>(Complete this field for all UPRNs with ‘Current_Technology’ or ‘Future_Technology’)</p> <p>Please define if coverage has been or is planned to be connected using a public intervention. ‘Yes’ will be marked when a premises is entirely dependent on funding from BDUK’s Vouchers, Gigahubs, Superfast, LFFN ,RGC or Gigabit Infrastructure Subsidy (GIS) Programmes, or when an existing service was built with funding from one of those Programmes. Other public interventions (such as Local Authority schemes) should also be acknowledged and marked as a ‘Yes’ here. Further explanation should be provided in your Supporting Evidence Pack.</p> <p>An entry of ‘No’ would indicate that the premises is planned to be built, or already has been built, entirely through</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>



Field Name	Description	Format
	<p>commercial funding with no dependency on public intervention.</p> <p>Evidence of this funding should be provided in your supporting evidence.</p> <p>Please also note that where you have indicated that a UPRN is entirely dependent on public intervention by providing a 'Yes' in the 'Public_Intervention' column within your data coverage response; the approach by BDUK is to provide a default Gigabit White determination and to supersede this determination with BDUK intervention data as described in the OMR/PR - Subsidy Control Classification Guidance</p>	

Additional columns

Aside from the standard columns above, you may wish to add additional columns to provide further additional information about your network. If this is the case, please add additional column(s) at the end of your data return and provide clear explanation in your supporting evidence of what these columns indicate.



Annex B: Supporting Evidence

In order to substantiate your existing and planned commercial coverage we require a complete and up to date supporting evidence pack alongside your submission.

There are three essential areas against which DfE/BDUK will evaluate to ensure overall credibility of your planned investment;

- whether the **technology** you have deployed or intend to deploy is gigabit-capable and meets the technical criteria as outlined in Annex C: Technical definition
- **deliverability** - whether your deployment plans are in line with the phases/premises passed outlined in your business plan, with the key build stages and processes outlined
- **commercial/financial viability** - whether you have credible commercial plans such as sufficient access to capital and whether the drawdown of your funds aligns with your deployment plan and build programme

Please note - we do not expect you to produce additional tailored material to support your response. We believe you should have sufficient documentation readily available that can enable us to make a determination of credibility. Suppliers should provide **supporting evidence** in two ways;

1. A completed supporting evidence pack (template provided by DfE) containing responses to each evidence request. Your responses may refer us directly to supplementary documentation (described below).
2. Supplementary documentation to substantiate your coverage claims such as network diagrams, business plan, deployment plans etc.

The supporting evidence you provide should correlate with your data coverage submission (Annex A).



An area to store supporting documentation, alongside your supporting evidence pack, will be provided within the secure file portal set up by DfE when making your submission. Please contact gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk to confirm your intent to respond to this OMR and we will provide you with access to the secure file portal.

Once evaluated, your supporting evidence pack will be baselined and can be used for subsequent responses to OMRs and/or Public Reviews. For future submissions, suppliers should review and refresh the information provided in their pack but do not need to submit a new pack to support their claims.

Please see below an outline of the process;

1. Supplier confirms intent to respond to OMR and/or PR and DfE sets up a secure file portal.
2. Supplier uploads their data coverage file alongside a completed supporting evidence pack and full suite of information. This is required for all suppliers who have not completed the supporting evidence pack previously.
3. DfE assesses the evidence provided and raises clarification questions where necessary. Following the determination of supplier's treatment, the supporting evidence pack for that submission is 'baselined'.
4. DfE archives the baselined version of your supporting evidence.
5. When responding to a subsequent OMR and or PR the supplier provides a new data coverage file and reviews the baselined evidence pack. The supplier will either;
 - a. Verify that the supporting evidence pack remains valid and no changes have been made to the information within; or
 - b. Amend some or all of the responses in line with any updates to coverage plans and refresh supporting documentation which is no longer valid. Any changes to the supporting evidence pack must be recorded accordingly.



Additional guidance on how to complete the supporting evidence pack will be provided when setting up the secure file portal.

If you require any additional support, guidance or clarification with any of this, please get in touch with us at gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk.

If your future network plans are entirely reliant on BDUK subsidy/interventions (e.g Vouchers) it may not be necessary to provide a complete set of supporting evidence alongside your data submission. Please contact gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk if you are unsure.



Annex C: Technical Definition

The Technical Definition is given in the [Subsidy Control Guidance Section](#) of the BDUK Website:

The key areas are:

- Section 10.6 of the Detailed overview of the [Gigabit Infrastructure Subsidy scheme](#):
- [the GIS Worked Example - Assessment Form for Gigabit Capable Solutions](#): Please note, this worked example shall be used principally for contracting purposes, but may be used for other purposes (e.g. market review) and therefore may be of use when responding to this market review.

Even if you are familiar with the definition, you should re-check it for each return, as it may change from time to time.