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PROJECT GIGABIT NI

PUBLIC REVIEW

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

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Northern Ireland - Public Review

New procurement to extend coverage of gigabit-capable broadband across Northern Ireland Duration: To commence on 5 June 2023 and close on 6 July 2023.

Introduction

The UK Government's ambition is to deliver nationwide gigabit-capable broadband as soon as possible. It is recognised that there is a need for government intervention in the parts of the country where this is not commercially viable. This is why the government has committed £5 billion for the hardest to reach parts of the country, ensuring no area is left behind. This will be achieved 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 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 analysis of data following an Open Market Review and a subsequent Public Review.

As of January 2022, BDUK has been asking suppliers who are delivering gigabit-capable infrastructure to submit national data returns on a 4-monthly basis (January, May and September) of their detailed build plans at premises level. The purpose of this "National Rolling Open Market Review" (NR OMR) is to ensure that we have the most up to date information about suppliers' existing and planned build over the next 3-year period.

The January 2022 NR OMR was used as a 'soft launch' of the new process and as such, BDUK invited a small number of suppliers to participate in this collection. For the May 2022 NR OMR BDUK extended the invitation to more suppliers with the intention of including all suppliers over the coming months.

This Public Review (PR) is being launched using supplier data collected through the September 2022 (NR OMR).

The PR process aims to validate the outcome of the OMR and DfE's mapping to ensure that it correctly represents the information provided by suppliers in the course of the OMR and to ensure that the right areas are targeted for government investment, with supplier submissions being used to inform eligibility across Project Gigabit (please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme> for more information about Project Gigabit). Data collected from the PR will be used to inform GigaHubs and UK Gigabit Voucher eligibility as well as support the development of other potential BDUK interventions.

We invite stakeholders (including the public, businesses, internet service providers and broadband infrastructure operators) to provide us with feedback about the proposed eligible area for government investment set out in this document.

Suppliers who missed contributing to the preceding OMR, had no definitive plans and/or evidence base on which to substantiate claims at that earlier stage, or have subsequently updated their plans, now have a final opportunity to notify BDUK before the procurement stage. The premises identified by BDUK as eligible may be grouped into one or more appropriately sized Intervention Areas (IAs). The IAs will be issued to the market so that suppliers can bid for funding to support delivery to those areas.

Key Eligibility Requirements for Subsidy

Read more [guidance on the key eligibility requirements for the Project Gigabit subsidy](#).

The outcome of this PR and the preceding OMR is 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 investment. 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 Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN premises) level.

Once the PR 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 Voucher 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); and
- 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](#). DfE will follow the same approach.

BDUK intervention data includes, but is not limited to:

- Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS);
- Superfast (NBS 2012 or NBS 2016);
- Gigabit Infrastructure Subsidy (GIS);
- Local Full Fibre Networks Programme (LFFN), Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) programme;
- GigaHubs; and
- Other local body funded broadband infrastructure projects.

Outcome of the Open Market Review (OMR) – Northern Ireland

This Public Review is being launched using supplier data collected through the September 2022 National Rolling Open Market Review (NR-OMR). You can view the OMR publication at [Project Gigabit - Open Market Review](#).

The OMR indicated that planned commercial coverage for gigabit-capable broadband would reach approximately 879,605 premises, and would therefore leave the remaining 85,504 premises in Northern Ireland without access to gigabit-capable broadband.

The outcome of the OMR is shown within the map (**Annex D**) and associated postcode list published alongside this document and shows the Subsidy classifications determined for each postcode across Northern Ireland. Supplier data submitted during the OMR has been incorporated into the OMR outputs using a methodology that protects commercially sensitive supplier data.

For presentational purposes only, postcodes have been used when mapping the proposed eligible areas for this Public Review. *(N.B. we will only subsidise build to premises which have been designated as White. Postcodes are not used to determine intervention areas for subsidy).*

For the purpose of mapping only, postcodes have been classified as follows:

1. A postcode is **White** if any 'White' premises are present;
2. A postcode is **Under Review** if any 'Under Review' premises are present;
3. A postcode is **Black** if all premises in the postcode are classified 'Black'; and
4. A postcode is **Grey** if all premises are 'Grey' or there is a mixture of 'Grey' and 'Black' premises.

The outcome of the OMR is summarised in terms of 'White', 'Grey', 'Black' and 'Under Review' postcodes and premises in Northern Ireland in Table 1.

Postcode Classification	Number of Postcodes	Number of Gigabit Black Premises	Number of Gigabit Grey Premises	Number of Gigabit Under Review Premises	Number of Gigabit White Premises
White	12,163	54,636	122,391	18,084	50,745
Under Review	4,241	23,628	40,275	16,675	0
Grey	19,087	173,708	175,065	0	0
Black	13,402	289,902	0	0	0
Total	48,893	541,874	337,731	34,759	50,745

Table 1 - Outcome of OMR

It is possible to provide Suppliers (upon request and subject to the relevant data sharing agreements being in place) a UPRN list, showing the Premises which have been designated as ‘White’ & ‘Under Review’ following the OMR. Please contact gigabitni@economy-ni.gov.uk to request this information.

Purpose of this Public Review Request for Information

This PR defines the proposed eligible areas, as determined during the OMR, to enable all interested stakeholders (including the public, businesses, internet service providers and broadband infrastructure operators) to comment on those proposals.

The outcome of the OMR is shown within the map (**Annex D**) and associated postcode list published alongside this document.

As part of this PR, we will request and then evaluate any further responses in order to validate the eligibility of the premises for government subsidy. 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 premises to be included in procurements. The flowchart below (Figure 1) shows a summary of how the OMR process works.

Open Market Review Process

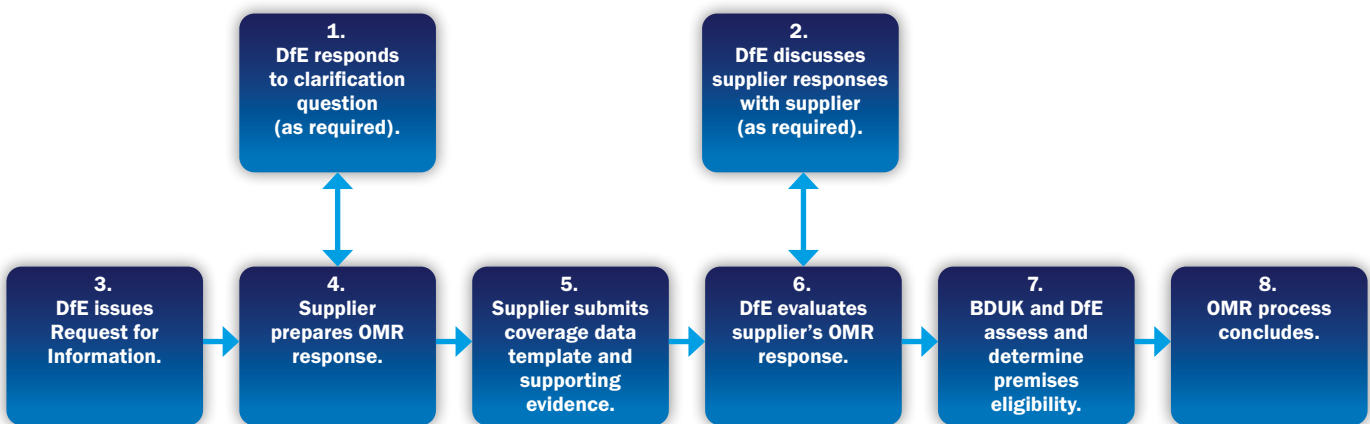


Figure 1 - Public Review Process

This PR will take place over the period of at least one month, and once concluded will confirm the eligibility of premises for procurements. The full details of these procurements will follow the conclusion of this OMR and Public Review. The flowchart below (Figure 2) shows the order of processes, from OMR to procurement.

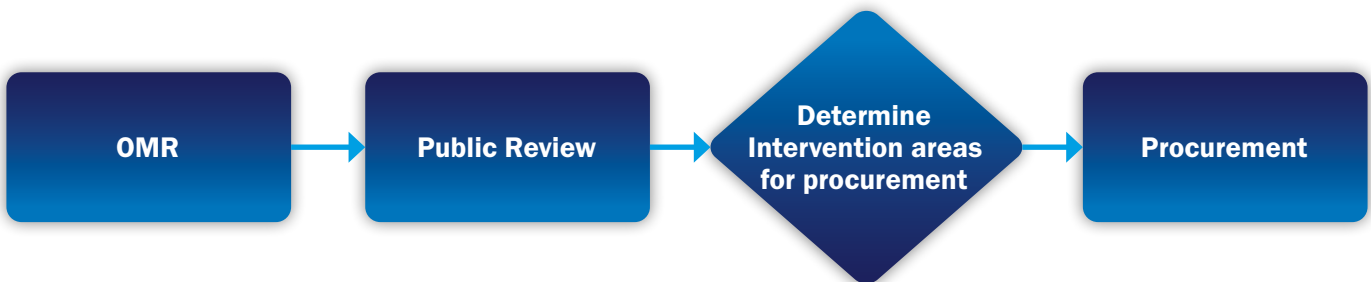


Figure 2 - OMR to Procurement

All meaningful responses to the PR will be carefully considered and where necessary, used to determine eligible premises. The final eligible area maps and a summary report confirming details of the changes will be published on the DfE website after the close of the review period. The finalised eligible premises and proposed IA(s) will then be submitted to BDUK’s National Competence Centre (NCC) for approval against the UK Subsidy Control Regime. The responses and output from the PR will therefore help us gain further confidence that the proposed interventions are in areas that are eligible for subsidy, i.e. areas which are not commercially viable and require Government intervention to address market failure. Data collected from the PR will be used to inform GigaHubs and UK Gigabit Voucher eligibility as well as support the development of other potential BDUK interventions. Supplier submissions will be used to inform eligibility across Project Gigabit (please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme> for more information about Project Gigabit).

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 3) shows the planned geographic boundary.

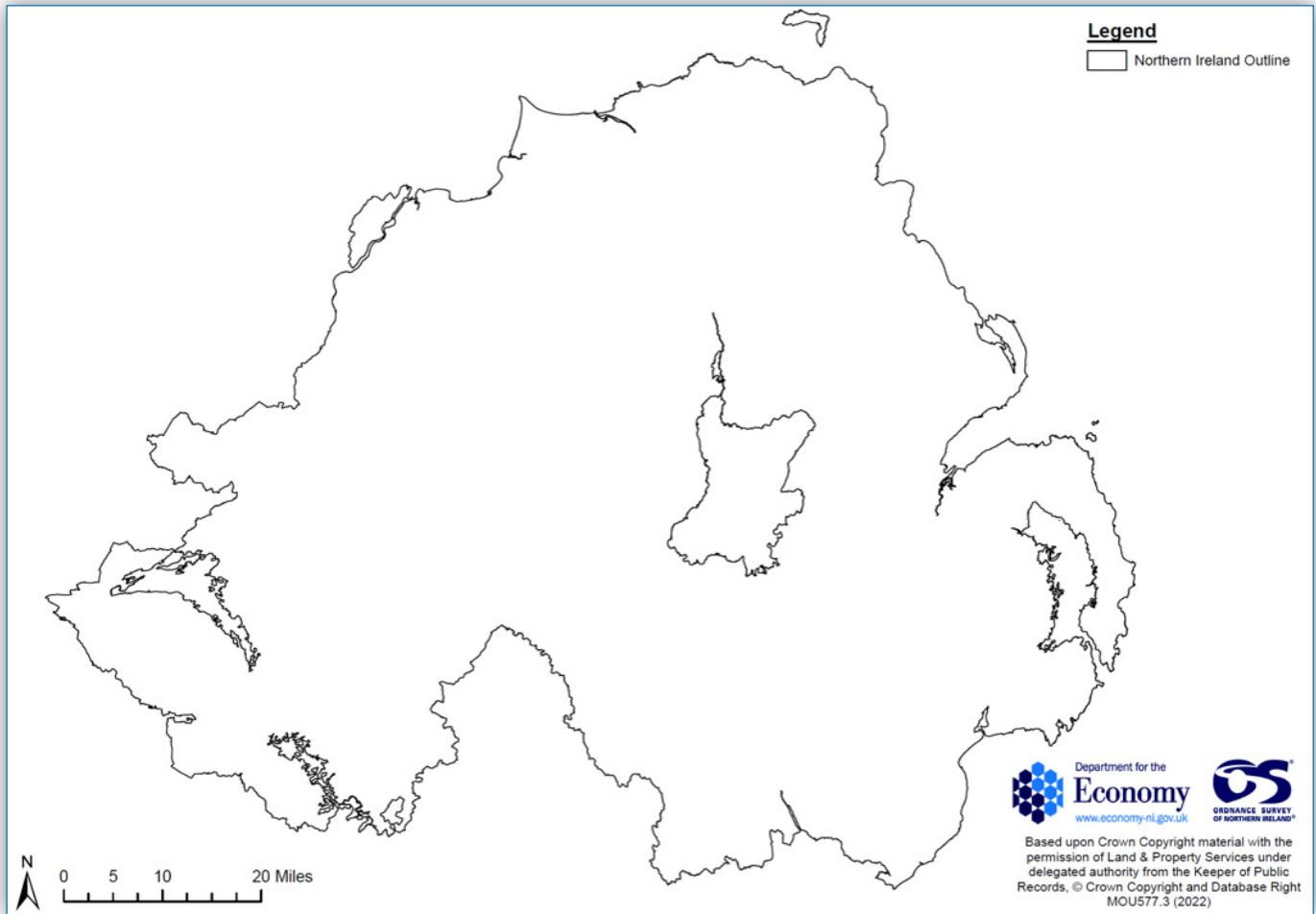


Figure 3 - Geographic Boundary of Open Market Review

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.

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 gathering and assessing the data, with findings shared with BDUK so that final conclusions may be drawn, in support of Project Gigabit objectives.

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

Procurement and Commercial Approach

DfE will undertake extensive early market engagement in relation to procurement for interventions. This engagement will include consultation on the programme design, different potential target areas, technical specification (including wholesale access), procurement types and contractual terms. Feedback from broadband suppliers and other stakeholders will be considered in all of these areas.

Procurements will be carried out in accordance with the [Public Contracts Regulations 2015](#) (PCR 2015). These procurement approaches are designed to address the scale of the individual procurements. DfE will undertake the procurements in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

FORTHCOMING PROCUREMENT – NORTHERN IRELAND

BDUK has agreed to budget an appropriate amount of public funding from the Project Gigabit Programme, based on the final number of premises requiring subsidy for Northern Ireland, at the procurement stage.

The budget will be specified within the Invitation To Tender (ITT) documentation, following the PR. 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 – capable of achieving a minimum of 1Gbps download speed - to the premises identified as in scope for subsidy. Please note, the final list of premises in scope for subsidy will be issued with the ITT and is not finalised at this stage. Final IAs may be a subset of the premises classified as White in the subsidy assessment and will be subject to BDUK and DfE overlays, including other active / planned BDUK and DfE interventions (e.g. Superfast).

Once the review is closed and DfE has finalised the IA, an ITT will be issued within approximately six months via a procurement portal, for suppliers to bid for the opportunity to deliver extended gigabit-capable broadband coverage.

Participating / Responding to this Public Review

DfE's goal is to ensure the parts of the country that need Government investment are accurately targeted. Each contributor to this PR will help to optimise the use of public subsidy in helping to provide faster and better connectivity across all parts of Northern Ireland.

Please respond if you have information to contribute to this data validation process or can provide your views about the accuracy of data and mapped areas by reporting where premises have existing or planned gigabit-capable broadband coverage. If you are a supplier and did not respond to the recent [Project Gigabit - Open Market Review](#) and have existing or planned network coverage, please submit your plans so that public subsidy can be targeted more accurately and over-building commercial infrastructure can be avoided. Where suppliers have credible plans that extend beyond the three-year horizon then these should be included in submissions to DfE. All planned build should be supported with detailed evidence as set out in the Submission Requirements section of this RFI.

Please note that the information you provide in your response will be treated as confidential, albeit that it may be necessary to share some / all of your response with our professional advisors and/or BDUK, Ofcom and BEIS Subsidy Control Branch.

For information regarding what to expect when you contact DfE and provide us with your personal information please read the DfE privacy notice¹.

¹ Our Privacy Notice is available at: [Privacy | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Responses from Residents, Businesses and Other Stakeholders

For residents and businesses, responses should relate to whether you have, or expect to have gigabit-capable broadband service coverage in the next three years (and beyond). Any information provided in response to this PR should as a minimum include (but need not be limited to) the UPRN² (if known), or the area (i.e. Postcode) that the submission relates to and the nature of the concern.

For all submissions, DfE and BDUK would be grateful if you could confirm the following:

- Your organisation's name (if applicable);
- Your organisation's, or residential address (if applicable);
- Your name;
- Position;
- Contact telephone number; and
- Email Address.

Members of the public and other respondents should follow the above format and email their submissions to gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk or through the Citizen Space website at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfe/project-gigabitni-open-market-review-public-review>.

² A Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) can be found on the Property Valuation website at [LPS Domestic Property Valuation \(spatialni.gov.uk\)](https://www.spatialni.gov.uk/)

Responses from Suppliers

BDUK requests information and supporting evidence from suppliers in relation to the presence of broadband infrastructure within the project area. We wish to hear from all internet service providers and broadband infrastructure operators - particularly in relation to the proposed mapped eligible areas shown with the Annex D map and associated postcode list.

Please tell us about your:

- Broadband infrastructure - existing;
- Plans for developing / improving broadband infrastructure; and
- Interest in bidding for projects and capability to scale.

For suppliers wishing to provide a coverage response to this PR please see the below sections, 'Making a Data Response' and 'Submission Requirements'.

Specific feedback on the procurement approaches can be supplied to gigabitNI@economy-ni.gov.uk, where you may, for example, want to tell us separately about your capacity to make a bid.

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 5 June 2023 – 6 July 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 individuals to check on the availability of services at specific addresses. DfE will take appropriate safeguards to ensure that individuals cannot use this to access data on many premises.

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 premises 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; and
- 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 6 July 2023 at 3pm. DfE plan to publish the subsequent maps showing the proposed Intervention Areas, following the close of the data 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.

This will be followed by the launch of the ITT to suppliers, enabling them to bid for the opportunity to fulfil a new contract to deliver the extended coverage.

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.

Please note that final UPRN datasets generated during intervention area design and issued as part of the invitation to tender for procurements are further filtered, and deprioritised where necessary subject to factors such as UPRN proximity, type and location.

Explanation of Required Fields

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. e.g. 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	(Complete this field for UPRNs which are RFS only) The technology you use for supplying that particular premises, examples of this could be ADSL, FTTP, FTTC, etc. This must be your infrastructure only, we don't require you to tell us about any other known technology serving the UPRN.	Text

Field Name	Description	Format
<p>Current_Max_Download_Speed</p>	<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>	<p>Number</p>
<p>Current_Max_Upload_Speed</p>	<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 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>	<p>Number</p>
<p>Future_Technology</p>	<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>	<p>Text</p>

Field Name	Description	Format
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> <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
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. 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>	DD/MM/YYYY

Field Name	Description	Format
Delivery_Phase	<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>	Text

Field Name	Description	Format
<p>Design_Stage</p>	<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), i.e. RSPs 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>Text</p>

Field Name	Description	Format
<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 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>Text</p>

Field Name	Description	Format
Public_Intervention	<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 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>	Yes / No

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; and
- **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.

Annex D: Maps to Show Intervention Area

The map below is an image of our current draft intervention map. The postcode level data has also been published alongside this document.

Please note, following closure of the PR, a new version of these maps and premises lists will be produced and published on gov.uk based on the latest dataset issued with this PR (please see Annex A for details) and market feedback gathered during the PR process this is known as a PR Closure Notice.

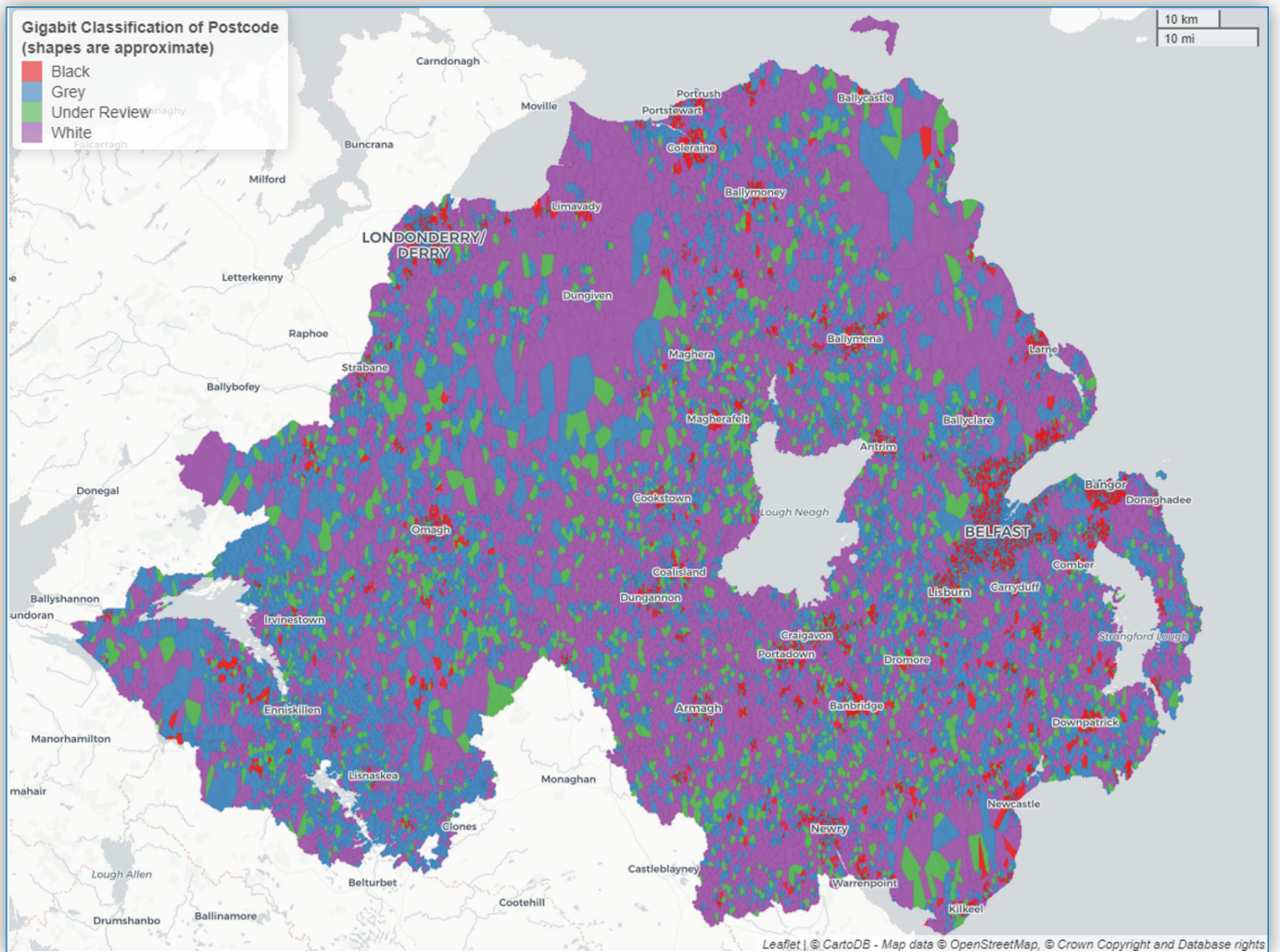


Figure 4 - Map Showing Intervention Area

Annex E: Subsidy Control

Following the UK's departure from the European Union on the 31 January 2020, the award of public subsidy needs to take account of World Trade Organisation rules and any international commitments made in free trade agreements. BDUK considers that this proposed subsidy falls under the subsidy control principles in [Section 3 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) (TCA) agreed between the European Union and UK Government on the 24th December 2020. The TCA places an obligation on both the UK and EU to have an effective system of subsidy control with independent oversight.

BDUK will ensure that it meets these subsidy principles in awarding public subsidy for gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure, for example, by ensuring subsidy is designed to target failure in the market to achieve full UK coverage while minimising negative effects on competition. Public subsidy will be targeted to limit the risks of crowding out private investment, altering commercial investment incentives and ultimately distorting competition. Projects will continue to be procured under the Public Contracts Regulations (2020), to help meet our subsidy control requirements.

Suppliers have the opportunity during the OMR and PR stages, to share with BDUK any firm and credible investment plans that may mean that public subsidy will not be warranted.

REQUESTING A REVIEW OF A SUBSIDY AWARD

Under UK subsidy control requirements, anyone can request for a review about the award of subsidy. Requests must be submitted no later than one month from the date of the award of the subsidy for Northern Ireland. The award of subsidy will follow the procurement and contract award and BDUK's NCC will consider requests submitted within the one month timescale, under the terms of the TCA.

This proposed award will be published by the Department of Business Energy Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The process for making such a request will be published here too.

More information about the UK's Subsidy Control regime can be found on the government website at [Statutory guidance on the Subsidy Control Act 2022](#).