



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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Cllr Marc Macrae
Chair, Economic Development & Infrastructure
Services
Moray Council
marc.macrae@moray.gov.uk

Our Ref: TO2022/12923/dm

Dear Cllr Macrae,

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 October, to the Minister of State for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure, Julia Lopez MP, about the progress of the R100 rollout in Moray. I am replying as a member of the Ministerial Support Team.

We are making good progress with Project Gigabit, the government's £5 billion mission to deliver lightning-fast, reliable broadband across the UK. Gigabit coverage has increased from 6% in January 2019 to over 71% now, and we are on track to meet our 85% target by 2025. We have delivered gigabit connectivity to over 740,000 premises, in most rural and remote areas of the UK, and we publish our progress in quarterly updates.

With regard to the Scottish Government's R100 superfast programme, R100 continues to deliver gigabit coverage in Scotland. Following the UK government's £12.5 million investment into R100 in 2021, the UK Government has recently contributed a further £16 million investment into the R100 South (£6.6 million) and North (£9.4 million) contracts, alongside a £20.2 million investment from the Scottish Government. This means a further 2,600 premises across the South, as well as the Western and Northern islands of Scotland, will receive access to a gigabit connection. I do appreciate however, that this latest announcement will not contribute to coverage in Moray and note that the R100 delivery timelines may remain a concern. The interim voucher was a Scottish Government initiative and BDUK is not aware of any plans to reopen this.

BDUK is working with the Scottish Government on the potential for Project Gigabit procurement activity in Scotland. Levels and areas of current and planned gigabit-capable broadband coverage are being identified and analysed following the Open Market Review that concluded in March. We continue to engage with suppliers to clarify areas of market failure in Scotland and identify those areas which are eligible for Project Gigabit subsidy.

You may be aware that we are also working with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highland Council, with the support of the Scottish Government, to identify where Project Gigabit might support the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal and improve digital connectivity in the region. Highlands and Islands Enterprise is conducting a Public Review of supplier build which is due to close on 14 November.

BDUK's gigabit vouchers projects are being actively delivered in Scotland with over 2,500 vouchers funding connections under the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, of which over 160 benefitted from the Scottish Government's top up funding. Vouchers can offer a quicker route for some premises to gain a gigabit connection and if there are active suppliers in Moray,



you may wish to encourage them to consider delivering projects under the scheme. For your reference I have attached a link to the latest [Project Gigabit quarterly update](#) and BDUK will be publishing an Autumn update shortly.

Thank you for your letter and I hope this clarifies the approach that is being taken in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Dempster Marples
Ministerial Support Team