

Fact Sheet - 4G Broad Band Options

What is 4G broadband

- 4G broadband is an internet service that uses 4G as opposed to a telephone or fibre line.
- The 4G broadband providers are: EE, Three UK, o2 & Vodafone.
- There are also “Mobile Virtual Network Operators” which work over the network infrastructure provided by the 4 main mobile network operators above.
- Costs are typically from £22 to £60 per month. (Inc. Unlimited Data).

How does it work?

- Mobile operators' masts will have high capacity internet links either from another mast, or through a direct fibre connection.
- The 4G signal transmitted from such masts travels to your property (if unobstructed) bringing fast broadband speeds.
- It's received by either an indoor or ideally an outdoor mobile broadband router.

How is 4G broadband different to regular broadband?

- It doesn't need a phone line to work.
- It can slow down if eg, a concert in a nearby / cell site under heavy use.
- Upload speeds can be higher.
- Data caps do exist, but unlimited tariffs are now widely available.
- Externally mounted equipment provides a better service.

What are the benefits?

- It can serve as either a primary or secondary broadband connection.
- Upload speeds may be higher, useful for sending data, video calling etc.
- Lower costs - migrate from a traditional telephone line to VoIP line.

Types of 4G access technology

- Mobile operator provided devices such as a MiFi or 4G Router (for indoor use).
- Some models support external antennas.
- Purchase custom solution to include the above from local providers / installers which are designed for external use, these may also include “all in one” antenna and router systems which may help improve performance.

Getting Connected

- Your mobile signal may be good enough with a standard mobile network operator issued MiFi / 4G router.
- If you do have a choice of networks, you may want to do a speed test with either network to determine best performance v price.
- You may need to choose a network or a local 4G broadband specialist.



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Grant Support

Access Broadband Cymru - <https://gov.wales/go-superfast/boost-your-broadband>

This scheme provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales. It does not include monthly rental costs.

New connections through this scheme must deliver a step change in speed - with at least double your current download speeds eg a current connection of 10Mbps must improve to at least 20Mbps.

The amount of funding you can receive depends on the speed of the new connection:

£400 for 10Mbps and above

£800 for 30Mbps and above

Eligibility Criteria & Scheme Conditions

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/inline-documents/2020-03/access-broadband-cymru-eligibility-criteria-and-scheme-conditions.pdf>

Application Form

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/inline-documents/2020-03/access-broadband-cymru-application-form_0.pdf

Example 4G Broadband Suppliers / Installers

- IA Aerials
- 4G4U
- PC-Q
- AL Technical
- Astra Broadband
- Country Connect
- Countryside Connections
- Dyfed Telecom
- Freelix
- ITsDUN
- Haven Wireless (West Wales Systems)
- Pembs Wifi
- Synergy ICT Ltd
- Total Tech Ltd
- CommuniKate

Welsh Government website and email details

www.gov.wales/broadband - broadband@gov.wales

Ofcom Universal Service Obligation (March 2020)

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/broadband-uso-need-to-know>



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