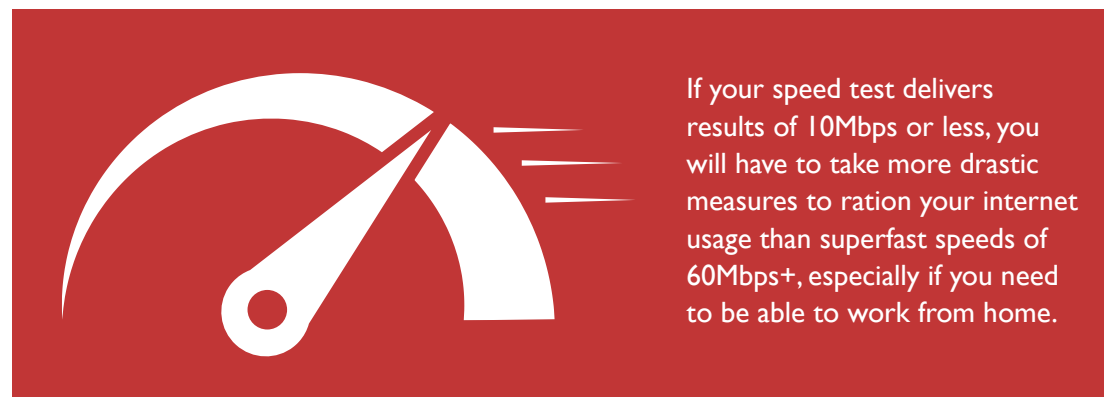# CONNECTIVITY IN WALES

With many of us now spending more of our time at home, the speed and reliability of your internet connection is more important than ever. There are a range of ways to ensure you are getting the most from your internet connectivity.

Some quick tips to try….

✓ Reset your router by turning the router, set top boxes and laptop Wi-Fi receivers off, wait for approximately 30 seconds, and then turn them back on again.

✓ Moving your router nearer to your telephone socket and removing any extension cords or secondary telephone socket it may be connected to can help improve your connection.

✓ Running a speed test will give you a much clearer idea of how much bandwidth you have in your home and what the limitations of your home broadband might be.

If your speed test delivers results of 10Mbps or less, you will have to take more drastic measures to ration your internet usage than superfast speeds of 60Mbps+, especially if you need to be able to work from home.

Running regular speed tests can also give you a clearer idea of the times of day when your broadband is performing at its best and worst. This will allow you to schedule bandwidth-heavy tasks, such as video calls and HD streaming, for when you have the best broadband speed. For the most accurate results, use a cable to connect your computer to your router. If you need to test wirelessly, position yourself as close to your router as possible. Make sure that nothing else is using your internet connection or running on your computer, while performing the test. Simply type 'internet speed test' into your search engine it should allow you to test it. This should only take a few seconds.

What are my other options?

Check if you already have access to a fibre broadband service. Superfast Cymru programme with Openreach rolled out superfast broadband access to most homes and businesses in Wales. You may already be able to get faster broadband. There are other suppliers that have broadband networks in Wales. Check directly with broadband providers or through price comparison websites.

Check future roll-out plans. Openreach is delivering more fibre broadband to homes and businesses using a mixture of public and private funding. This will cover some but not all of the remaining premises without access to fast, reliable broadband. Private companies are also expanding their networks so check directly with broadband providers to see if you may be part of their future plans.

Access Broadband Cymru is a Welsh Government funded scheme that provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales. The amount of funding available depends on the speed of your new connection. For eligibility criteria and scheme conditions see *https://gov.wales/go-superfast/boost-your-broadband*

If you are part of a rural community, support may be available from the UK Government to connect to gigabit capable broadband. Those with speeds of less than 30Mbps may be eligible for additional funding from the Welsh Government towards these costs in the form of Rural Gigabit Connectivity Vouchers. *https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/Wales/*

It might also be worth contacting your local council, parish council or community group to see whether there are community broadband projects under way or planned in your area. Under these schemes, community groups have partnered with broadband networks to roll out superfast services, primarily to rural areas not currently serviced by mainstream providers.

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 and Vodafone. There are also "Mobile Virtual Operators" which work over the network infrastructure provided by the four main mobile network operators above.

FURTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE THROUGH FARMING CONNECT

→ ICT Programme visit *gov.wales/farmingconnectskillsandtraining* or contact Farming Connect on 08456 000 813.

→ Despite the current restrictions surrounding face-to-face training, our fully funded computer training is now available online, digitally or over the phone for eligible farm and forestry businesses registered with Farming Connect.

  For further information or to register your interest visit *www.gov.wales/farmingconnect* or contact the Farming Connect Service Centre on 08456 000 813.

→ Webinar: 'Would 4G broadband work for you?' Join Farming Connect and Peter Williams, Welsh Government to learn what 4G broadband is and to receive information on the grant available for this technology. Available to watch on the Farming Connect website now.

→ Factsheet: 4G Broadband Options. Available on the Farming Connect website.