



The Universal Service Commitment (USC) and the Universal Service Obligation (USO)

Universal Service Commitment (USC)

The Government set out to deliver superfast fibre across 95% of the UK but also pledged access to at least 2Mbps for everyone. The access to at least 2Mbps promise was called the Universal Service Commitment (USC). Government chose to deliver this via a voucher scheme which provided a subsidy for individual householders or businesses towards the installation of satellite, wireless broadband or 4g. Vouchers could also be collected by a number of people in an area and used to buy fibre services. The scheme was run and managed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and administered locally by the e-Sussex team. **The scheme ended on 31st December 2019.**

Universal Service Obligation (USO)

In order to ensure that Britain's telecoms infrastructure is fit for the future and will continue to deliver the connectivity that consumers need in the digital age, universal high speed broadband is to be delivered by a regulatory Universal Service Obligation (USO), the government confirmed in December 2017. The decision means that everyone in Britain will have the right to request minimum speeds of 10Mbps download speed and 1 Mbps upload by 2020 regardless of where they live or work

According to the government, this is the speed that will meet the typical needs of a family that wants to browse the web, stream films and carry out video conferencing at the same time.

Local authority projects will **not** be responsible for delivering the USO. The USO will be managed by **Ofcom**, who have appointed BT and KCOM as the USO providers. This will be available from **20th March 2020**. Further details on the scheme can be found through the following link:

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