

CSW Broadband – public consultation now started

CSW Broadband are making good progress on the procurement for Contract 3, which will extend the superfast broadband coverage still further. Contract 3 is very different from what has gone before because it is being run under different rules.

This offers real opportunities, as it means that we can now open the work up to a wider range of suppliers, who will offer different technologies. We have had some really positive engagement with suppliers, some of whom will use the same technologies as BT, and others who offer wireless or purely fibre to the premise solutions. We need to understand how the market works and what the benefits of each solution are, so that we can be truly informed clients as we move towards tendering and evaluation.

Another difference this time around is that we will be breaking the area up into lots, so as to make them more attractive to different suppliers. As far as possible, the lots will be determined to fit with the geography that is best suited to different technologies. We don't have a completely free hand in this, however, as we do need to keep the number of lots to a manageable number – probably 5 or 6 lots in total. This should mean that we will end up with 5 or 6 contracts, with a number of suppliers, providing the best possible solutions for each area. We'll give more information on lotting as the situation evolves.

We have asked suppliers where they plan to roll out their superfast broadband networks over the next 3 years. The public consultation will give all suppliers, and members of the public, an opportunity to comment on the areas that are claimed to be covered. After the public consultation we will apply for State Aid approval, and then the areas where there is no planned commercial coverage will be eligible for rollout under Contract 3.

Check your area on our [Contract 3 web site pages](#) to see what the commercial suppliers have said about your area. The consultation runs until 30th November 2016.