

Openreach



- Openreach run the largest Telephony Network in the UK
- Openreach provide services to some 650 Communications Providers (CPs) (such as Sky, TalkTalk, Gamma, BT, Zen, Vodafone)
- We have invested £17 billion to upgrade our network over the past 10 years and spending billions more in future
- Over 28.5 million homes and businesses already have access to superfast fibre broadband of over 30Mbps
- 95% of the UK has access to part Fibre lines (FTTC)
- We are adding over 42,000 Fibre lines every week.
- We aim to have 25M premises with access to Full Fibre (FTTP) by 2026





What is happening and why?



1980 - Introduction of System

- The UK's telephony network was last upgraded in the 1980's to Digital Telephone Exchanges
- This equipment is now failing and needs to be withdrawn
- In 2018 the industry agreed on an 7 year programme ending in 2025 to move all lines from this legacy equipment to new exchange equipment, which would be based on glass fibre technology

• The move from the legacy service to fibre will be made by Communications Providers, according to their own timescales for their own customers, so you wont see a telephone exchange moving all of its customers on the same day.

What is happening and why?

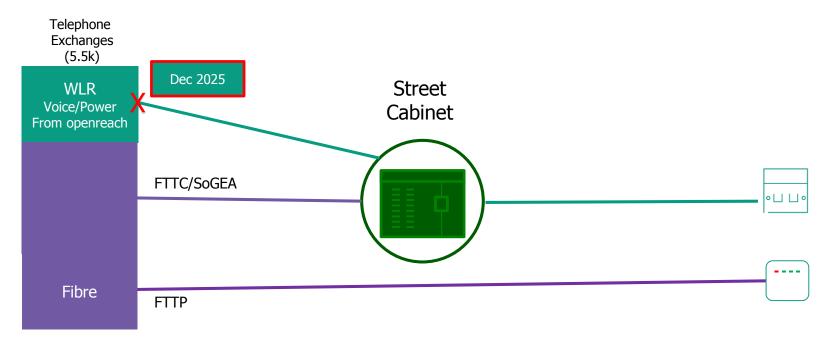


- There will be major benefits to moving to Fibre which includes quicker broadband and the ability to transfer larger amounts of data. This helps with everything from faster download of films, to new applications as part of the Internet of Things (IoT) and biometrics
- All lines will be moved to either part fibre FTTC/SOGEA (where the copper remains between the premises and street cabinet) or Full fibre (FTTP), where the line is fibre from the exchange to the customers premises
- The practical change for customer lines on the day they are migrated by their CP, is that all communications will have to work through a router
- There will be challenges for some, who use analogue devices on a daily basis that plug into the
 master or extension socket in their premises, as these devices can only continue to be used if
 they work through a router

What's changing?



The Network

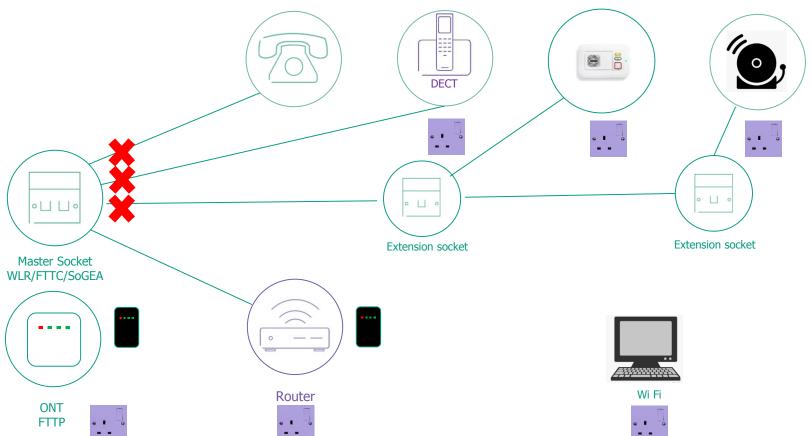


SoGEA is the name Openreach give to Fibre to the Cabinet, when its migrated by the CP and the link to the WLR equipment is withdrawn

So what's changing inside the premises?



On Migration by CP to SoGEA (FTTC)/FTTP



Things to think about



Switchboard and main comms



Adult Social Care (Telecare)



Everything else

Special Services (Lifts, Alarms, Fax, Car Park Barriers, PSTN lines, Highways)



What are the key messages?



- On Dec 31 2025 all lines that rely on copper from the exchange to the cabinet will be disconnected from the exchange equipment
- This will remove power from the line and the ability to make voice calls
- The replacement is either part fibre or full fibre lines
- Migration to All IP (Digital) is done by the Communications Provider according to their own time scales
- Voice calls will take place over VoIP through the router
- Any Special Services (telecare, alarms, lift alarms, telemetry, fax etc) will need to connect to the router
- In the event of a power outage, the line will rely on the router being powered and so local power will need to be provided by the customer
- CPs may offer "at risk" customers a battery back up unit, but it could also just be that the customer has a mobile

(https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/123118/guidance-emergency-access-power-cut.pdf)

What are the key messages?



- If you are moved to FTTP (Full Fibre) you will have an ONT fitted to replace your master socket. This will also need power and battery back up
- From September 2023 a national stop sell will go into force and all new connections must be on Full or part fibre lines
- Even now some exchanges are moving to an earlier stop sell date because they have a high availability of FTTP
- If you are in a stop sell exchange area, you can carry on using your analogue services until your Communications Provider migrates you, however you will be restricted on how you can make changes such as home moves and change of supplier. These will need to migrate to FTTP if available at that premises

The future is All IP - Are your devices IP Ready? Considerations



- Do you have IP Ready devices?
- What devices do you currently use and will they transfer seamlessly to the router?
- Will your CP provide you with an ATA (analogue port) on the back of the router?
- Who will move analogue products you want to continue to use from the wall sockets to the router?
- Will you need to buy separate ATA hardware independently of your CP?
- You will no longer get power provided down the telephone line (50v). Do you devices rely on that today?
- What will you do in a power outage locally? UPS? Battery Back-up?
- Think of your procurement policy and beware of scams

So, what should I do now?



- Think about the services provided over your customer's lines and your own.
- Will they work on an All IP network?
- What about local powering and battery back-up?
- What will you say to your customers and when ?
- How will your and your end customer migrations be performed?
- Plan there seems to be plenty of time to complete the change, but there is so much to do
- Talk to Hardware and Communication Providers
- https://www.openreach.com/upgrading-the-UK-to-digital-phone-lines
- https://www.openreach.com/upgrading-the-UK-to-digital-phone-lines/industry
- Test at the Openreach Digital Services Test Lab in London
- https://www.openreach.com/upgrading-the-UK-to-digital-phone-lines/industry/digital-services-testlab

Thanks



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