

Quick fixes to speeding up your broadband during lockdown

Trying to work or school from home can be a nightmare if you have slow broadband, however, help could be at hand.

Digital Dorset is highlighting potential quick fixes to speed up your broadband.

In the first instance check if you can get an upgrade. Some areas in Dorset have received full fibre but the improvement in speed is not automatic – you have to sign up for an upgrade. To see if you can upgrade click here:

mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/superfast/checker

If your broadband speeds are less than 10 mbps you could be entitled to help from BT/OFCOM'S Universal Service Obligation (USO). The USO either offers you a 4G Home Hub solution or subsidy towards full fibre if you live in a 4G blackspot. The 4G Home Hub is the quickest solution as fibre can take a while to be installed.

For more information on the USO go to [Universal Service Obligation \(USO\) for Broadband \(bt.com\)](https://www.bt.com)

You can still get a 4G Home Hub even if your speeds are greater than 10 mbps from a range of providers.

What is 4G home broadband?

This is a portable, and sometimes more affordable, alternative to regular broadband

4G broadband, is just like the regular broadband found in most homes - you receive a steady internet connection, you can connect all your devices and you pay a monthly fee.

However, unlike regular internet which runs through cables and Wi-Fi signals, 4G broadband works in the same way as your phone, operating through a SIM card and mobile signals.

This means you don't need a phone line; you don't need to pay set-up fees and you can take it on the go. You should also be able to receive it relatively quickly.

If you live in a poor mobile connectivity area the 4G solution may not work. However, don't just go by your current mobile phone deal as some mobile providers have a better network than others.

Here is a list of 4G home broadband providers - [Fixed Wireless Broadband Providers | thinkbroadband](https://www.thinkbroadband.com)

Satellite broadband

If 4G is no good for your property, then satellite broadband could be another option.

It uses a satellite dish to provide two-way access to broadband services but speeds which used to be lower, have improved with download speeds of up to 30 Mbps available. The main advantage of satellite broadband is that it can be provided virtually anywhere in the world, so long as you have a clear line of sight to the south generally.

There are satellite broadband providers in Dorset – search for 'satellite broadband Dorset' and you will find companies that operate locally.

Broadband too expensive?

If the cost of broadband is out of your reach, help could be available.

People receiving means tested benefits can apply for the BT Basic service, which provides a phone line and broadband for around £10 per month. More information available here: [BT Basic: Home phone and broadband for people on benefits \(choose.co.uk\)](#)

Virgin Media also offers a £15 month deal for those on Universal Credit [register for essential broadband | Virgin Media](#)

Mobile phone operators have also been launching unlimited data SIM card deals via schools for children in receipt of free school meals.

The applications are generally done via the schools. If you think you could be entitled to help contact your school office and ask them about unlimited SIM-card deals. Here is more information on how mobile operators are helping [How to Get Free Data for Home Schooling During Lockdown \(techadvisor.co.uk\)](#)