

[Statistical data set: Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June](#)

Detailed annual statistics on the structure of the agricultural industry at 1 June in England and the UK.

[National Statistics: Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics](#)

Monthly UK statistics on cattle, sheep and pig slaughter and meat production.

[Detailed guide: Manufacturing and marketing fertilisers if there's a no-deal Brexit](#)

What manufacturers and importers of fertilisers need to do to prepare for a no-deal Brexit.

[Millions set to benefit from faster broadband with new plans to tackle rogue landlords](#)

A new law will ensure the nine million people in the UK living in blocks of flats aren't left behind in the Government's nationwide upgrade to gigabit speed broadband, Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan announces today.

The measures will make it easier to install faster internet connections in blocks of flats where landlords repeatedly ignore requests for access from broadband firms. It is estimated that an extra 3,000 residential buildings a year will be connected as a result.

Gigabit speed broadband is classed as a thousand megabits per second and is around 30 times the speed of superfast broadband. It will be the equivalent of downloading an HD film in less than 45 seconds.

This follows the government announcing £5 billion of new funding to bring gigabit-capable broadband to the hardest-to-reach parts of the UK earlier this month. It is the latest Government action to bust the barriers to faster broadband rollout and enable the private sector to get the job done.

The legislation is part of the Prime Minister's plan to level up the country through new infrastructure, and deliver nationwide coverage of gigabit speed broadband as soon as possible.

Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan, who will today visit a block of flats in Coventry being connected to gigabit-capable broadband, said:

We're pushing ahead with delivering the digital infrastructure that will underpin the UK's future growth and boost our productivity.

We've just announced £5 billion so that people in rural communities will get gigabit speed internet at the same time as everyone else.

And we're now making sure people living in blocks of flats and apartments are not left behind either, and can reap the huge benefits of the fastest and most resilient internet connections.

To install gigabit-capable broadband in the UK's estimated 480,000 blocks of flats or apartments, broadband companies must get permission from the building's owner to enter the property and undertake the necessary works. One of the biggest obstacles preventing operators deploying new networks to residential blocks is the landlord's failure to respond in any way to requests for access.

Operators say that 40 per cent of their requests for access receive no response. While they already have an option available to push for access via the courts, there is considerable cost, time and uncertainty involved.

This means a significant amount of tenants are missing out on the chance to benefit from gigabit-capable broadband. The same problem does not exist for individual houses, where it is much easier to get permission to access the property.

To solve this, the Government is going to create a cheaper and faster process for telecoms companies to get access rights. It will apply when a landlord has repeatedly failed to respond to requests for access to install a connection that a tenant within the building has asked for. It will give

operators a cheaper and more streamlined route via the existing Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) to connect the property, lowering the timescale to enter a property from six months to a matter of weeks, and at a drastically reduced cost.

Simon Clarke, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, said:

Faster broadband boosts productivity and makes people's lives easier at home and at work.

That is why we are connecting more residential buildings to the fastest internet, while also ensuring the most rural areas benefit from this technology through our £5.5bn high-speed broadband funding.

Lutz Schöler, CEO of Virgin Media, said:

This new law is something Virgin Media has long called for – it breaks through a major broadband barrier as we invest to bring gigabit speeds to our entire, ever-growing network. Giving broadband builders clear and efficient access rights will mean the many forgotten flats across the country can get the next-generation connectivity they deserve.

Greg Mesch, Chief Executive Officer of CityFibre, said:

We are pleased to see the Government supporting competitive builders of digital infrastructure as they build momentum to deliver the target of national full fibre coverage by 2025. As a company committed to rolling out more than 20% of the target, CityFibre welcomes all barrier busting initiatives that help to accelerate the rate of build.

David Smith, Policy Director for the Residential Landlords Association said:

We recognise how important it is that tenants should have access to high speed broadband. It is in a landlord's interests to be able to offer it as it makes their properties more attractive to prospective tenants.

The RLA will work constructively with the Government to ensure that any difficulties in implementing enhanced access rights are addressed such as broadband companies ensuring they have the right contact details for a landlord.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- The Government has today published its response to the consultation: [Ensuring tenants' access to gigabit-capable connections](#). It has decided it will introduce new legislation to amend the Electronic Communications Code to provide operators with a faster, cheaper route to gain interim rights under the existing Electronic Communications Code via the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) and its equivalent in devolved administrations. This route will apply only in circumstances where a tenant has requested a service, the landlord's permission is required for that service to be delivered, and the landlord fails to respond to repeated requests from an operator for access.
- Part 4 of the existing Code allows operators to apply to a tribunal for provisional rights to enter a property and install infrastructure. But operators have not done so – citing the cost, time and uncertainty of eventual result. The Government will instead legislate so that: (i) where a landlord fails to respond to repeated requests for rights to install infrastructure, including access; (ii) a tenant within the building has requested a service; and (iii) an operator has complied with other statutory duties (for example they have made a specified number of requests which haven't been responded to). This will allow an operator to apply for an order which will give them interim code rights to deploy in the building.
- Currently an operator may use the pre-existing process under the Electronic Communications Code to make an application to the tribunal after 28 days. That application is then put to the court and they have to wait an estimated 2-3 months for a decision. The Government is proposing under the new system that operators will only have to wait 42 days before making an application (to ensure they have sent a sufficient number of notices and made serious attempts to gain access) but then will then be able to use the faster process to gain the right to access which will speed up the time it takes to access a building from an estimated six months to what we envisage will be between 6-7 weeks and lower the cost to the operator (from an estimated £14,000 to around £300). The Government will set out a clear process operators will need to follow to demonstrate their repeated attempts at engagement with a landlord; before being able to apply for those rights. We also intend to legislate so that – once such rights are ordered by the Upper Tribunal or equivalent in devolved administrations – landlords will also be able to challenge the making of such an order.

[Ministers highlight vital projects](#)

around the country as government drives infrastructure revolution

- road, rail, port and digital investments highlighted today are helping to improve crucial links and spread growth opportunities
- biggest road upgrade in the UK confirmed as £1.5 billion A14 improvement scheme to open a year early following recent unveiling of 18 new road projects given go ahead
- day of activity follows on from Chancellor's commitment to an infrastructure revolution which will help create better opportunities and level up the country
- new law will mean an extra 3,000 residential buildings a year will be connected to gigabit-capable internet, part of the Prime Minister's plan to deliver nationwide coverage of fast broadband

The government will today (10 October 2019) reaffirm its pledge to drive forward an infrastructure revolution with major investment in transport and the [roll out of super-fast broadband to rural areas](#) as ministers showcase the benefits of investment already taking place across the country.

Today's series of visits are highlighting crucial work to increase access to opportunities across the UK and improve journeys for commuters, help the UK's ports prepare for Brexit and roll out full fibre broadband to every corner of the country.

The Transport Secretary will be visiting Portsmouth International Port to see the crucial infrastructure that has been put in place, and learn how it is preparing for Brexit.

Roads Minister Baroness Vere will be announcing that the biggest road upgrade in the UK – the brand new dual carriageway on the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon – will open a year ahead of schedule.

The 12 mile bypass for the town of Huntingdon is part of a [£1.5 billion project to upgrade 21 miles of the A14](#) in Cambridgeshire and will save drivers up to 20 minutes on journeys.

It follows news last week that [18 new road schemes across England have been given the go ahead](#) by the Department for Transport, in addition to the £25.3 billion that has already been committed for investment in the strategic road network between 2020 and 2025.

Financial Secretary to the Treasury Jesse Norman will visit the National Infrastructure Lab in Southampton, a state of the art research and testing facility, helping to deliver infrastructure that cost less, lasts longer, is environmentally sound, and is suitable for the modern world.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

This government is determined to deliver an infrastructure revolution. Today is all about highlighting the benefits of work taking place around the country which is improving journeys for passengers, connecting communities and increasing productivity.

This is just the start of our vision to modernise our infrastructure, invest in our transport and technology for the future and level up and unite the whole of the UK.

Transport Minister Paul Maynard will also today visit Leeds station to see upgrade works, part of the record £13 billion being invested by 2020 to improve transport networks in the north.

The government has been clear that it wants to drive growth across the north, including through [Northern Powerhouse Rail](#), giving local leaders greater powers and investing £3.6 billion in towns across England.

And Environment Minister Rebecca Pow will visit one of Europe's biggest infrastructure projects – the £3.8 billion [Thames Tideway Tunnel](#) – to learn how it will help to clean up the Thames.

Recognising that connectivity refers to digital as well as physical infrastructure, the government has also committed £5 billion to support full fibre broadband roll-out to the hardest to reach 20% of the country.

To underline the importance of digital infrastructure, Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan has today announced a new law to make it easier to install gigabit-capable internet connections for the 9 million people living in blocks of flats, where landlords repeatedly ignore requests for access from broadband firms. She will today see how industry are progressing with plans to deliver nationwide gigabit broadband at CityFibre install in Coventry, while Digital Minister Matt Warman will visit a Virgin Media broadband dig in Southampton.

Meanwhile, Exchequer Secretary Simon Clarke will visit Openreach to meet trainee engineers and learn more about the importance of fibre broadband in connecting businesses and homes.

Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan, said:

We're pushing ahead with delivering the digital infrastructure that will underpin the UK's future growth and boost our productivity.

We've just announced £5 billion so people in rural communities are not left behind and have access to the fastest internet speeds at the same time as everyone else. Today, we've also announced plans to ensure those living in blocks of flats and apartments are not left behind either.

Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick said:

The government is determined to build the infrastructure this country needs. This includes high-quality, well designed, environmentally friendly homes, good transport links and access to fibre broadband, allowing local communities to prosper.

Every region across the UK has a key role to play in enhancing productivity and prosperity. This government is committed to boosting economic growth, to level up and develop towns and communities across the country.

Ministers from the Department for Education will be making visits to see the pipeline of skills the country will need to support the development of infrastructure in the future.

Schools Minister Lord Agnew will visit Sunderland College to speak to manufacturing, engineering and construction apprentices and Children's Minister Michelle Donelan will visit New College in Durham, which has close links to the car manufacturer, Nissan.

Today the government also announced £88 million new investment to help close the productivity gap between the UK and major world economies and turbocharge British businesses. The investment will help develop software to harness the power of supercomputers and help kickstart the UK's largest and most ambitious productivity institute, which will examine how to boost productivity levels across the country.

Minister for the Cabinet Office, Oliver Dowden, said:

We're committed to delivering greener, technologically advanced infrastructure that both connects people across the country and helps in the fight against climate change – making sure the UK continues to be one of the best places to live and do business in the world.