



Rural Broadband Scheme

The Rural Broadband Scheme has been established to enable a basic broadband service to be provided to individual rural premises which are not capable of obtaining a broadband service from existing internet service providers.

The Scheme has been set up in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture as a measure under the Rural Development Plan using funding from the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development.

Who can apply under the scheme ?

There are certain criteria for applications under the scheme. These are:

- You must be living outside of the areas covered by the National Broadband Scheme (<http://www.three.ie/nbs/>)
- You must be living in a rural area in accordance with the Rural Development Plan – the following are excluded from the Scheme:
 - Places within the City Council boundaries of Dublin, Cork, Galway, Waterford and Limerick
 - Places within the the Borough Council boundaries of Kilkenny, Sligo and Wexford
 - Places within the the Town Council boundaries of Athlone, Ballina, Castlebar, Cavan, Dundalk, Ennis, Killarney, Letterkenny, Mallow, Monaghan, Mullingar, Tralee, Tuam and Tullamore.
- You must be unable to obtain a service from the service providers operating in your area

How will the Scheme work ?

There will be a number of phases in the Scheme. This first phase involves inviting and processing applications. The Department will be accepting applications from 9 May 2011 until 29 July 2011.

In the second phase of the Scheme, the Department will check with existing internet service providers to see if they are willing to provide a service to the premises concerned. If they are willing to provide a service, we will write to you and ask your permission to be contacted by the companies concerned. If

a service can be provided to you in this way, your application under the scheme will be closed.

If none of the companies concerned are prepared to offer you a service, then your application will progress to the next phase in the Scheme. We will write to you at that stage and let you know. We expect the second Phase of the Scheme to be completed by January 2012 at the latest.

In the third phase of the Scheme, the Department will engage an internet service provider who will offer a basic internet service to applicants. We will pass the details of all applicants to this service provider who will contact the applicants and offer them the service. While the Department will be paying part of the cost of the infrastructure necessary to provide a service under this Scheme, the applicant will be responsible for paying the costs of the service itself. This may include some upfront connection costs as well as monthly charges for the service. Further details of the service and related costs will become available once the Service Provider has been selected. You will not be obliged to take up the offer of a service under this Scheme.

We expect roll out of this service to commence in early 2012. The Scheme should be completed by the end of 2012 at the latest.

Data Protection

In order to for the Scheme to operate successfully, it will be necessary to give an applicant's details (Name, address and phone number) to service providers to assess whether they can offer you a service. You will not be contacted by service providers participating in the scheme unless you give your prior written permission.

It will not be possible to accept an application under the scheme without being able to allow service providers to contact you.





Rural Broadband Scheme Application

Personal details

Info: If you are applying on behalf of a business or organisation, put the organisation name in the surname box.

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

Title _____

First name _____

Surname _____

Applicant category Residential Business
 Community/voluntary organisation Other

Address

Info: Enter your full address as it would apply, for example, on your electricity bill.

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

House name or number _____

Street _____

Townland or street _____

Town or Locality _____

County _____

Contact details

Telephone _____

I declare that I am unable to obtain a broadband internet service at the above address:

I consent to my personal and address information being sent to participating Internet Service Providers:

Signature _____

Send to: Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Rural Broadband Scheme
29 – 31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Phone: 1850 678 100 (CallSave) or
01 678 2020

