



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for
Communications Regulation

ComReg Broadband Checker

Information Notice

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Commission for Communications Regulation

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Overview

1. ComReg has published a broadband information tool called 'Broadband Checker' on the ComReg website ComReg.ie.
2. The tool allows users to determine the availability of connectivity in different areas, with a level of detail which is useful to support their choice of operator or service provider.
3. Geographically referenced fixed broadband network availability and other data is collected by ComReg from Network Operators, as part of its quarterly data gathering exercise. This data feeds into a range of regulatory activities, including the publication of the Quarterly Key Data Report (QKDR). A subset of the Network Operator data collected is presented on Broadband Checker and will be updated quarterly in tandem with the publication of the QKDR.
4. The information from Network Operators currently represented is:
 - Eircode (Enter to search)
 - Network Operator Name (NBI, Open Eir, SIRO and Virgin Media)
 - Best Available Broadband Product¹
 - Broadband Service Status²
 - Maximum Achievable Download Speed (Mbps)³
 - Expected Peak Time Download Speed (Mbps)⁴
5. A list of the Retail Service Providers providing services on the network of individual Network Operators is also provided on Broadband Checker.
6. A user will be able to search by individual Eircode. A map with the entered Eircode location and a table with the relevant data (for all Network Operators with an available or planned status) at that Eircode will be displayed.

¹ 'Best Available Broadband Product' is represented as, Fibre = FTTP, Copper = ADSL, Cable = Cable, Part Fibre = EVDSL and CVDSL

² 'Active', 'InSitu' and 'Passed' is represented as status 'Available'. Value 'Planned' is represented as is.

³ Maximum Achievable Download Speed (Mbps) is used for 'Planned' Status (excluding Planned lines with 'dummy dates').

⁴ Expected Peak Time Download Speed (Mbps) is used for 'Available' ('Active', 'In-Situ' and 'Passed') status.

Background

7. Connectivity is at the core of the telecommunications industry, and the widespread adoption of digital technologies has increased the demand by consumers and businesses for reliable and high-speed internet services. In 2022 Irish consumers spent over €3.5 billion in the communications market and consumed over 8 billion gigabytes of data as they availed of a range of products and services including home broadband and mobile phone services⁵. With advancements in technology, consumers are more empowered than ever before, and it is crucial that they are well-informed.
8. ComReg has requirements under Regulation 100 of the European Union (Electronic Communications Code) Regulations 2022⁶ ('ECC Regulations') which involve ComReg, *inter alia*:
 - Conducting a geographical survey of the reach of electronic communications networks capable of delivering broadband by 21 December 2023;⁷ and
 - Making available information tools for end-users.⁸
9. ComReg undertook the task of providing information on broadband technology to the public and this was also in the context of ComReg's participation in the Government's Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce. This new tool provides end-users with information on the broadband availability at a specific location across all networks. This is part of a wider ComReg initiative to provide one-stop shop of independent consumer information and enable consumers and businesses to make informed decisions about their broadband and mobile services.
10. ComReg provides a single source of independent information and end-user tools to the public about broadband and mobile services through its tools available on ComReg.ie, which also include:

⁵ ComReg [Electronic Communications Strategy Statement 2023-2025](#)

⁶ S.I. No. 444 of 2022

⁷ Regulation 100(1) of the ECC Regulations states that: "*The Regulator shall conduct a geographical survey of the reach of electronic communications networks capable of delivering broadband ("broadband networks") by 21 December 2023 and shall update it at least every three years thereafter.*"

⁸ Regulation 100(13) of the ECC Regulation states that "*If the relevant information is not available on the market, the Regulator shall make data from the geographical surveys which are not subject to commercial confidentiality directly accessible in accordance with the European Union (Open Data and Re-use of Public Sector Information) Regulations 2021 ([S.I. No. 376 of 2021](#)) to allow for its reuse. The Regulator shall also, where such tools are not available on the market, make available information tools enabling end-users to determine the availability of connectivity in different areas, with a level of detail which is useful to support their choice of operator or service provider.*"

- Mobile Coverage Map: An outdoor coverage map web application and mobile app (iOS and Android) displaying mobile coverage signal by type of technology and by Service Provider at a location on www.comreg.ie/coveragemap with data updated 3 times per year.
- Compare: Service Provider price plan information for mobile, broadband and bundles on www.comreg.ie/compare with data updated quarterly.
- Information on broadband and mobile technology, and details on consumer rights at every stage of purchasing a service from a provider.

11. ComReg is pleased to provide access to this online information tool which meets our objectives.