

EIRCODE CASE STUDY

National Broadband Plan

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment launched the National Broadband Plan (NBP) in 2012. The Plan aims to deliver high-speed broadband throughout Ireland through a combination of State and commercial investment.

In areas where there is no existing or planned high-speed broadband available from existing commercial providers, the State will contract a supplier or suppliers to bring service to those areas. When fully implemented, the NBP will provide download speeds of at least 30Mbps to over 750,000 homes and businesses across the country.

How are Eircodes helping the NBP?

At the moment, Eircodes are used on the Department's High Speed Broadband Map. Users can enter an Eircode for a residential or commercial premises, and it is identified and displayed on the map. It will state whether the premises falls within the blue area of the map that is being served by commercial operators, or if it is within the amber area, which will be covered by the State intervention. Eircodes are also being used in the procurement phase to identify the location of premises within the amber area. Furthermore, we will use Eircodes in the deployment phase of the project to identify and report on areas where the intervention has been implemented.

WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS TO THE NBP OF USING EIRCODE?



Consumers can track the **progress of the network** development, find out when a service will be available for them, and place their order



The Department can **engage with commercial operators in blue areas** enabling it to provide clear information to consumers



Using Eircodes solves the problem of **identifying specific premises** in rural areas that are located in the same townland



The Department can **accurately monitor**, down to a premises level, the progress of the NBP in the amber area

In the deployment phase, the consumer will be able to access a public website that will allow them to enter their Eircode and check when a service will be available for their home or business. The Department will also track the progress of the network coverage using Eircode data.

Scale of savings or improvements

Providing improved access to detailed information in this way is consistent with the Government's Public Service Open Data Strategy.¹ This Strategy aims to create an environment where, by opening up Government information, new opportunities for research, innovation and engagement are delivered to and realised by public bodies, businesses, researchers and citizens.

Reference

1. <https://data.gov.ie/strategy>.