



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

29th January 2021

BROADBAND ACROSS ALDERSHOT GARRISON –
SHARE YOUR VIEWS

Dear Resident

In recent months, a number of families across the Aldershot Garrison have brought to my attention the poor-quality broadband connectivity in some Service Families Accommodation (SFA).

Through my initial enquiries, it became clear that the provision of internet connections across SFA is not a responsibility the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). Instead, it is for individual broadband providers – subject to the appropriate funding – to improve the broadband network. As they too have received a number of concerns, I met with Garrison Commander, Lt Col Paddy Baines MBE, and representatives of the Army Families Federation, to agree a way forward.

In September 2020, I approached Openreach to establish what new infrastructure and funding would be required to upgrade the existing copper network (ADSL) so that families could enjoy faster and more reliable broadband. I received confirmation just before Christmas that, after a comprehensive assessment, one of the options would be for properties across the Garrison to form a 'Community Fibre Partnership' – and I am currently awaiting further details and costings. This would bring Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband to your area, and download speeds of up to 1Gbps.

It is likely that, should the upgrade be possible, external funding will be required. Therefore, to help me make the case for such an investment, I need to hear from you about your family's experiences of broadband connectivity at this address. **I would be very grateful if you would write to my office at 147 Victoria Road, Aldershot, GU11 1JW to share your views, or alternatively complete my short survey online at: www.leodocherty.org.uk/GarrisonBroadband**

Your insight will be invaluable to help measure what impact poor internet connectivity may be having on local families. I am acutely aware that the pandemic has further highlighted these problems, and that poor connectivity has a significant impact on the ability to work from home, undertake remote learning, and keep in touch with loved ones.

I will endeavour to keep you up-to-date, and will publish regular developments on my website.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Docherty'.

Leo Docherty MP