



Ministry  
of Defence

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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4 September 2023

Dear Leo,

Thank you for your email of 9 August 2023, on behalf of several of your service personnel constituents and their families, regarding the delivery of fibre broadband for the Aldershot Garrison estate.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is working with a number of infrastructure providers in order to deliver improved broadband connectivity to the Aldershot Garrison estate as quickly as possible. Openreach and Wifinity both have active projects to deliver enhancements and have begun enabling works, and MOD personnel are meeting monthly with them. Toob are also delivering to the estate. The vast majority of homes will be receiving fibre connections, and, between the three providers, every MOD home in Aldershot is in scope to receive high-quality connectivity.

You have asked about completion dates for the works. As all suppliers are taking a phased approach to delivery, completion for all of Aldershot Service Families Accommodation (SFA) is unlikely to be achieved until early 2024. However, many residents should be able to order new services well before this, as individual areas are progressively commissioned. The MOD Project Team are conscious of the need to deliver an update to families about this, and are working with Aldershot Garrison personnel to deliver a series of programme updates via their social media channels. These will commence in the next few weeks.

Finally, please be assured that enabling high-quality internet connectivity to service personnel and their families in every one of our 48,000 SFA homes remains a high priority for MOD. While there remains work to do to this end, the proportion of SFA that can access a download speed exceeding Army's minimum benchmark of 24Mbps has increased from 79 per cent in June 2002 to 97 per cent today. Subject to funding, we are aiming for 100 per cent coverage by the end of 2025 at the latest, and we are currently exploring the feasibility of delivering even faster connections, up to and including Gigabit speeds.

I hope that this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely,

**JAMES CARTLIDGE MP**

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