

**From:** [Beryl.Gibb@scotlandoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Beryl.Gibb@scotlandoffice.gsi.gov.uk) [mailto:[Beryl.Gibb@scotlandoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Beryl.Gibb@scotlandoffice.gsi.gov.uk)]  
**Sent:** 28 June 2012 11:57  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** fast broadband in the Highlands

Dear Mr Pellow

Thank you for your email of 8 June to the Secretary of State for Scotland. He has asked me to reply. As you may know, the UK government is providing over £100m of funding to support the continued roll out and delivery of broadband specifically to rural areas in Scotland and this includes a programme to support improvements in the provision of broadband services in the Highlands and Islands. The UK Government's aim is to enable at least 90 per cent of households and businesses in every area of the UK to have access to superfast broadband service by 2015, with the remainder having access to a minimum of at least 2Mbps by this date.

The delivery aspects of this programme are being taken forward by the Scottish Government and I am aware that in your area, the Highlands and Islands also includes work to specifically tackle the challenges of delivering a broadband roll out in areas where the geography can make the supporting infrastructure complex.

I also understand that the recent announcement of a further £32m for the rural broadband programme in Scotland will be used towards support the roll out of the Highlands and Islands project.

Your sincerely

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**Sent on behalf of Kate Hall**

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