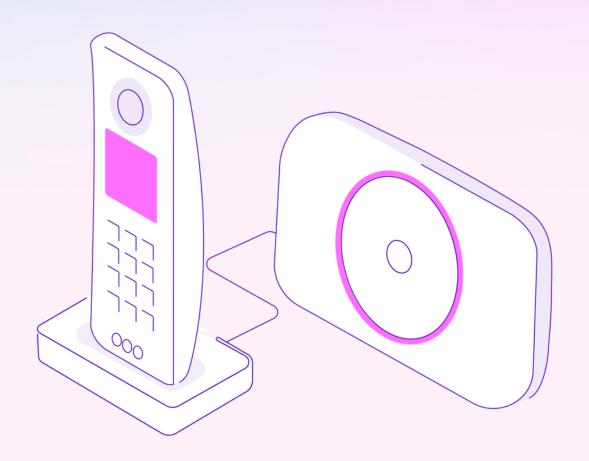


### Digital Voice

The digital home phone switch over



# The UK's landlines are going digital

Digital Voice is the name of our new home phone service.

Digital calls are made over our broadband network, rather than the old analogue network, which has been around for more than 40 years.

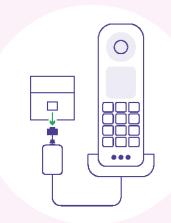
We have until the end of <u>January</u>
<a href="mailto:2027">2027</a> to move all of our customers to a digital service

# The analogue network is fast becoming obsolete

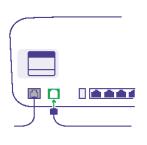
It's increasingly unreliable, energy hungry and can't give our customers the world-class service we want to provide. Switching to Digital Voice will give them clearer call quality, and help prevent the vast majority of scam calls.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



# The good news is, the landline isn't going away.

It's just being upgraded. For most customers, the upgrade will be as simple as connecting your home phone handset to a router rather than the phone socket on the wall.

# We've listened to what's important to keep the same.....

### .....but that doesn't mean we can't offer an enhanced service



Keep the same number, minimising impact on the customer



Enhanced scam protect features, protecting customers from fraud



Move to Digital Voice for the same price



Crystal clear call quality, when talking to others on Digital Voice



99% of phones will work on the Digital Voice platform so you can keep the same phones you're used to



3-way calling, connecting people with multiple family members or friends

# We give you more options with your home phone than any other network



If it's time for a new phone we've got you covered with our Digital Home Phone



Corded or cordless...BT or any other brand, your phone will do all it does today...and more



If you want phones around the house, our DV adapters let you still have phones where it works for you

# Enhanced scam protection powered by AI

Enhanced Call Protect is provided at no cost to Digital Voice customers

It uses AI to help with detecting and blocking spam and fraud calls, without blocking your important calls

You'll be warned if a call has been reported as a scam or potential fraud before picking up the phone

We're blocking over 20,000 scam calls & identifying 160,000 spam calls every day





## What happens if there's a power cut?

Digital Voice won't work without power.

We've got a number of options to ensure that if there's a blackout or a customer's broadband fails, they will still be able to make calls, including 999 in an emergency

Here's how we're tackling this issue...

A hybrid home phone using the UK's best mobile network with 87% geographical & 99% population coverage

or

For those in areas with no signal, a battery back up to keep the broadband service running at home





Hybrid phones with built-in batteries, which switch to mobile network connection when necessary.

Both free for those with additional needs

Battery back-up units (BBUs). Keep your hub/router on so you can still make Digital voice calls

### Our New BBU+ has been designed in collaboration with other providers to deliver a best-in-class solution



- 75% smaller than the existing BBU
- For Full Fibre customers one device will power both your Hub & Modem
- Automatically reserves 25% battery charge by powering down and switching to hibernation mode when in use
- Reserved charge can be manually activated in extended power cuts to allow customers to make an emergency call
- Long life battery will last 6-10yrs before needing to be replaced

### Expanding our mobile & broadband coverage



 We've built more than 500 brand new 4G sites in rural areas in the last 12 months, and we'll build hundreds more in the next 12 months

- Openreach plan to deliver Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband to 25 million homes and businesses by 2026.
- As of January 2025, 50% of all UK homes & businesses now have access to fibre to the home



#### The landline is a lifeline for some customers

Around two million of our customers are more dependent on their home phone line and may feel more anxious about making the switch.









No mobile phone signal

Vulnerable customers with additional needs

Customers with Healthcare pendants or alarms

Elderly customers

Landline-only customers

We're providing additional support to these customers as part of their move to Digital Voice

### Landline only customers

Customers who don't have or want broadband <u>will</u> be moved to our new 'dedicated landline service', allowing customers to continue using their landline in the same way as they do today.

This service will be available from 2025 and will keep customers connected to their existing service until they're able to move over to Digital Voice or an alternative.



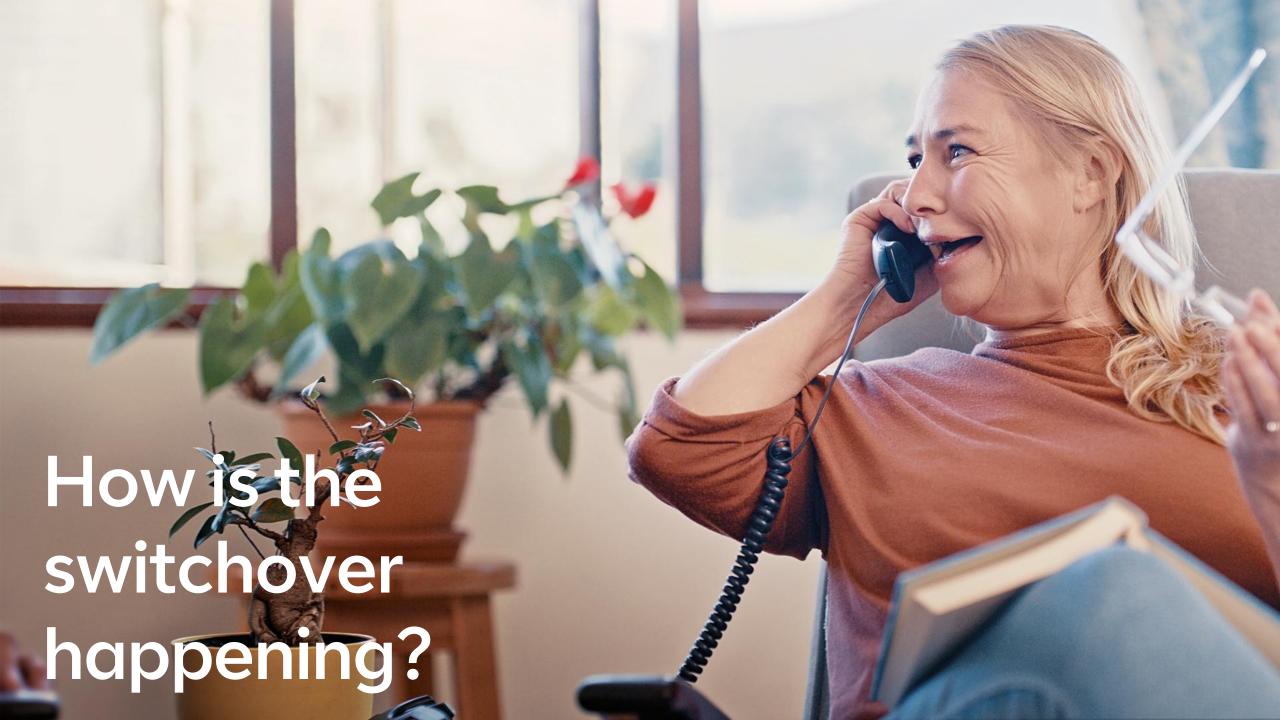
Works in a similar way to the analogue technology but still allows BT to switch off the PSTN



New equipment installed at the local telephone exchange means no engineering visit is required and no change at the customer premises



Keep customers without broadband connected until they're able to switch to Digital Voice

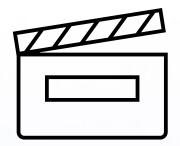


### Cross Industry & Government engagement





Specific guidance created by Government on how all providers should support those with telecare



#### <u>Telecare Action Board (TAB)</u>

Attended by Central Gov, Local Gov, Telecare & Telecoms industries, working together to ensure a consistent response to the Charter



#### **Readiness Checklist**

Set of conditions that all Communications Providers must meet before they're allowed to migrate customers "non-voluntarily"

















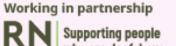


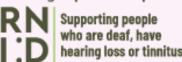














**Ensuring our customers** are supported through this change is paramount.

We've set up the Digital **Voice Advisory Group** (DVAG) who guide us on how best to support customers through the transition.

### Supporting those with Telecare



Openreach engineers will support customers through the switch from an analogue to a digital landline and will make sure that their telecare device is reconnected and working before leaving the property.



This visit will be free and will include the installation of a free battery back-up unit where required.



If the telecare device doesn't work on Digital Voice, the engineer will switch the customer back to their analogue landline and wait until the customer has a compatible device.



**40** Local authorities have signed up for a pilot running right now to test this journey and we're not migrating any other telecare customers known to us until complete.

# Raising awareness for telecare customers with a national campaign

We are launching a national industry-wide campaign in June 2025, supported by government aiming to reach all telecare users and their loved ones.



Call to Action:

If you have a telecare alarm, you must let your home phone provider know



Launch Date:

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Across multiple
media channels
including TV,
newspapers, social
media, GPs &
hospitals



#### Support:

The campaign will be amplified by many stakeholders including charities, local authorities and community groups using the Partner Toolkit



### When are we moving customers to digital voice?

Throughout 2024

Zero usage customers

Customers who have not used their landlines (outgoing) for 12 months



From January 2025

Voice engaged, nonvulnerable Customers

These customers will be moved nationally





From Spring 2025

**Vulnerable Customers** 

We will start to move all other customer groups including those with additional needs <u>regionally</u>







Approved by UK Government

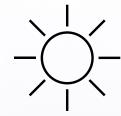
### Vulnerable customers will be moved regionally

Moving all customers with additional needs regionally, allows for greater focus and engagement from us, local authorities, charities and community groups in the area



From Spring 2025

East of England
Northern Ireland
Wales
Yorkshire & Humber



From Summer 2025

East Midlands
London
Northeast England
Scotland



From Autumn 2025

Northwest England Southeast England Southwest England West Midlands

## The customer's journey when we select them to move

Customers will receive at least 4 weeks' notice before being moved and all communication is physical (letters/postcards)

**Day 1** – Customer receives notification of switch to DV

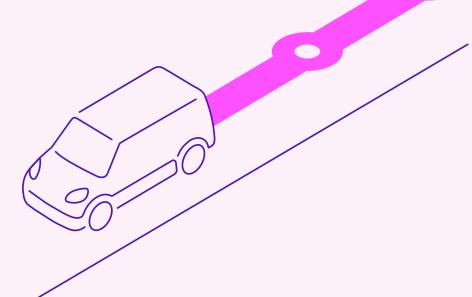
Day 28 – We place the order for the customer's switchover and send an activation email

Day 35 – Customer's service switched to DV and confirmation email sent.

**Day 3** – Customer receives equipment check notification

Day 33 – Customer receives set-up information postcard and automated phone confirmation.





We're raising awareness regionally - as personally as possible

### We visited every area of the UK in 2024

- <u>600</u> events
- Over <u>45,000</u> face to face conversations
- Radio & Press adverts in every region

### ...and we're not stopping

- We are revisiting every area of the UK again, running an additional 800 events focusing on more rural areas
- Working in partnerships with charities & local organisations
- 250 Events Run by Neighbourhood Watch
- 100 Events in NI by Supporting Communities
- 51 Events in Scotland by NHW Scotland & AbilityNet

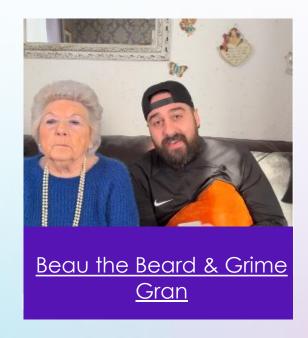


## Engaging with the support network of vulnerable customers – Connected Together

We're targeting the adult children & grandchildren of our vulnerable customers, with information on how they can support their loved ones through the switch using trusted Influencers to help us amplify and engage new audiences









#### Customers with additional needs

If you need extra support making the switch to Digital Voice, please register via our webform. You'll be asked to log in to your MyBT account and can tell us about your additional needs.

If you have Telecare, and are a BT or EE customer, please call 0800 077 8813 to let us know, so we can ensure you have all the support you need through the digital switchover. If you are a Plusset customer please call 0800 079 0009

If you are not a BT customer, please contact your landline provider for support.

Register for support >

















www.BT.com/connected-together

# Working with Moira Stuart to help the nation make the digital switch







Watch the interview here BT Press Office

- Mr and Mrs Mitchell, elderly BT customers are our case study focus.
- 26 Live and Pre-recorded TV and Radio interviews, supported by Age UK on some occasions.
- 167 pieces of national and regional coverage as a result of our Press Release
- Reaching a total estimated audience of 744m
- BBC Morning Live May 2025

### Customers have loved our face-to-face events













### How you can help us



#### Raising awareness

Recommend venues and locations for us to connect with local authorities, community partners, charities and faith groups. Help us to raise awareness of Digital Voice by posting on your social media channels.



### Telecare data-sharing

Engage with local authorities in your area and encourage them to complete and return our datasharing agreement for telecare customers



### Identifying customers with additional needs

Encourage your constituents who need additional help to contact our customer services team. They can do this by phone (0800 1234 150) or online via webform (Connected Together - All-IP - About BT | BT Plc)



### Download our one-page Digital Voice guide & Assets

Share with your constituents and communities, to help our customers feel better supported and knowledgeable about the Digital Switchover and reassure them that support is available for them. <a href="https://www.bt.com/about/all-ip">https://www.bt.com/about/all-ip</a>



Use and share the materials via the <u>Partner Toolkit</u> through your channels, following the guidance provided to ensure consistency and clarity, to help residents and their support networks to take action during the digital switchover.



## What about our other brands?



#### **EE Digital Home Phone**

EE will offer the same services, products & support that BT offers with the added benefits of our new EE Hubs offering Full Fibre speeds up to 1GB+

New & regrading broadband customers will be offered New EE over BT

### PlusNet Broadband only

At PlusNet, we're making things straightforward by providing simple, reliable broadband and will no longer offer a landline service

If you want to keep your phone, you'll be offered a deal with EE/BT or will be free to move to another supplier

### Where you can find more information

- **UK Government website**
- Ofcom website
- Charter of commitments
- Tech UK
- Local Government Association (LGA) Hub
- BT Digital Voice website
- **Connected Together and registering** additional needs webform
- National Telecare Campaign Partner **Toolkit**





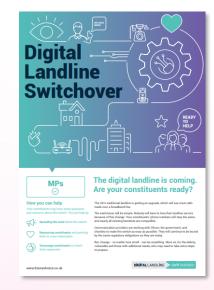




was to try and minimise the time and resources in dr under no obligation to use it. The decision on whether council, and if you do not agree with the terms, you a

Landlines in the UK are

going digital.



#### Digital switchover hub

The UK is moving toward a digital age. Both the landline telephone and 2G/3G mobile networks are changing, which may impact council services for

#### #DigitalSwitchover

We live in an increasingly digital world. Having access to fast and reliable broadband and mobile data is essential to enable people to fully participate in society and engage in 21st century education and employment systems

residents and bringing communities together. Through various schemes and initiatives led by government, others by industry - efforts are underway to improve broadband and mobile data canabilities.

To support these initiatives, we have developed the Digital Switchover Hub to host informal