

Shared Rural Network (SRN)

Overview

The Shared Rural Network (SRN) is a programme jointly funded by the UK government and the four main mobile network operators (EE, Three, VMO2 and Vodafone), to improve 4G coverage and boost connectivity across the UK.

The public and private investment in a shared network of phone masts will significantly improve mobile coverage for an extra 280,000 premises and 16,000km of roads, and is driving increases in coverage across all four nations, with the biggest coverage improvements in rural parts of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Improvements in 4G coverage will mean more people can stay connected, shop online and stream entertainment on the go, wherever they are in the UK. It will also boost the government's mission to kickstart economic growth, helping people set up and run businesses from anywhere in the country.

While 4G geographic coverage has now reached 95% of the UK landmass thanks to the SRN, there are still rural parts of the UK where there is either limited or no mobile coverage, and we will continue to work with the industry to deliver new coverage to these communities, enabling them to thrive.

Extended Area Service (EAS) & the SRN

One of the ways the SRN will deliver this new 4G mobile coverage is by utilising existing EAS masts that are being built by the Home Office as part of the Emergency Services Network (ESN). There are a number of these masts across England, Scotland and Wales and we have already activated over 40 for the SRN programme so far. To preserve the landscape, this part of the programme involves extending pre-existing masts, so that they are shared by all operators, rather than building new ones to avoid adverse impacts on the environment or scenery.

This new 4G coverage will also reduce the risk of people requiring emergency assistance. Where people do find themselves at risk, the masts will give first responders immediate access to life-saving data, images and information - making it quicker and easier for them to rescue anyone in danger.

Further Information

Please visit <https://srn.org.uk/> or contact antony.morgan@bduk.gov.uk for a programme briefing.