



Choosing a Broadband Supplier

Service Guarantees, Restrictions & Questions to Ask

<p>What Actual Speeds will I get on my line?</p>	<p>Good Internet Service Providers should be able to tell you what speed you will get, not just an "up to...".</p> <p>Some will guarantee a minimum speed for your service and allow you to cancel the contract if they can't deliver.</p>
<p>Are there Guaranteed Fix Times?</p>	<p>How quickly will a fault be fixed? Is there a Service Level Guarantee?</p> <p>Most ISP's do not offer an SLG on Broadband, but should do on the telephone line.</p> <p>Openreach offer a guaranteed 6 hour fix service to any ISP, but most don't opt to pay for this. If it's important to you, ask your ISP about it.</p>
<p>Can I escalate a fault for a faster fix?</p>	<p>ISP's should be able to escalate a fault (or provision) for faster fix/delivery.</p> <p>If you don't feel your fault is being resolved in a timely manner, you can request an escalation.</p>
<p>Are there Free Helpdesk Numbers?</p>	<p>You need to know if you will be paying high call charges to report a fault or ask for advice.</p> <p>0800 number is free from landlines. 0845 or 0870 numbers will be chargeable at different rates as all other numbers will be.</p>
<p>Do you use Traffic Management to restrict broadband speeds?</p>	<p>Some ISP's may use Traffic Management to reduce broadband speeds at different times to manage demand and capacity.</p> <p>Make sure you know if yours does.</p> <p>That could be why your broadband speeds slow down at different times.</p>
<p>End to End Response Times?</p>	<p>The line speed on your broadband (from the exchange to your house) is only part of the picture.</p> <p>Do you get good speeds over the internet?</p> <p>Use a speed checker that has servers across the UK (or even Europe) to get a reliable view of the service.</p>



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<p>Can I retain my email address and Telephone Number?</p>	<p>You should be able to keep using your email address when you move ISP's, but there may be a charge.</p> <p>If you can't then make sure you tell everyone about your new address (and change any website login details that use your email ID or you may not be able to update passwords or receive updates).</p>
<p>Any Free Services?</p>	<p>Does your ISP offer free/reduced price services such as cloud storage, VOIP services (like Skype), free calls, free software or internet security?</p>
<p>Any Problems with interference/Weather Impact?</p>	<p>If you are using wifi broadband services, how reliable are they when the weather or the landscape changes?</p> <p>Even leaves growing on trees can cause interference in spring and summer!</p>
<p>Are there data download limitations?</p>	<p>Is there a download limit on your service?</p> <p>If so, what are the charges for going over the limit?</p> <p>What are they?</p> <p>These can make a cheap service really expensive.</p>