

DP 1146 /07-11

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM  
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/FM/622/08

Kirsty Williams AM  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff

October 2008

Dear Kirsty

I am writing to you following the plenary debate of 23 September 2008 regarding the new RIBS contract to address the broadband not-spots in Wales.

I hardly have to tell you that there are a number of households and businesses in certain parts of Wales that continue to face difficulties getting a basic broadband service and as you have acknowledged, the announcement of the new RIBS contract will be welcome news.

The new procurement will be conducted under the existing State Aid approval (57/2005) for the RIBS project. This approval makes it clear that the maximum state aid intervention rate is 50%.

To support this we have made approximately £2 million available in each of the next two financial years to address the remaining broadband not-spots. This will be match funded by the winning bidder, thereby making around £8 million available to address the remaining broadband not-spots in Wales.

Maximising the number of broadband notspots that can be addressed with this significant level of investment will be a key part of the procurement exercise. For obvious practical reasons this falls short of a guarantee that every not-spot will receive broadband through the RIBS project, because ultimately, commercial, technical and funding considerations will apply.

You should continue to urge any of your constituents still without a basic broadband service to register this inability via the Welsh Assembly Government not-spot registration website at [www.bnrw.org.uk](http://www.bnrw.org.uk) or by telephoning 01443 846700.

*Rhodri*