Department for Education

Devices and 4G Wireless Routers Data as of 23 October

Ad hoc notice - laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers for disadvantaged and vulnerable children: progress data

Devices and 4G Wireless Routers Data

Contents

Introduction

During the summer term 2020, the Department for Education provided devices to local authorities and academy trusts for children, families and young adults most in need. The Department previously published data on the number of devices delivered as part of this scheme.

For the 2020 to 2021 academic year, more laptops and tablets have been made available for disadvantaged children in certain year groups who are affected by disruption to face-to-face education at their school, or have been advised to shield because they are or someone in their household is clinically extremely vulnerable.

This publication provides the number of devices delivered so far for children facing disruption to face-to-face education at their school between the start of September and 22 October 2020.

Devices are available to support schools and can be ordered by the schools themselves, or by their local authority (LA) or academy trust (trust).

Schools can receive digital devices for:

- disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted

- 14 to 16-year-olds enrolled for KS4 at sixth-form colleges

- disadvantaged children in any year group who have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable

- disadvantaged children in any year group attending a hospital school

The Department calculated an allocation of devices for each school based on free school meal data and an estimate of private device ownership.

LAs, trusts and schools are invited to order devices when there is a disruption to face-to-face education as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). They can decide whether to receive laptops and tablets with DfE security settings pre-installed, or whether to receive standard devices that they can install their own settings on. When the laptops and, tablets and 4G wireless routers have arrived with our delivery partner, Computacenter, they are set up with security settings if required, before being dispatched directly to schools.

In the first phase of the scheme, the Department delivered over 50,000 4G wireless routers for disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people. The Department has piloted two other approaches to providing internet connectivity to families that need it.

Internet access is also is available for the following:

- disadvantaged children and young people from early years to year 11 who do not currently have internet access and who are shielding on official advice or preparing for exams.

In partnership with BT, the Department piloted a service to provide children and young people free access to BT wifi hotspots so they could access the internet. The second pilot worked with

the Mobile Network Operators to provide families with a free mobile data uplift to access remote education.

This publication shares the number of devices (laptops and tablets) that have been delivered or dispatched to LAs, trusts and schools from the start of September to 22 October. It also shares the number of 4G wireless routers delivered or dispatched since the start of the scheme and the number of connectivity solutions allocated through the pilots.

The Department for Education does not hold centrally recorded information on the onward distribution to families, children and young people. This process is managed by the LAs, trusts and schools themselves.

Information published on the programme to date is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19

Progress data for devices

Table 1: Devices progress data since 1 September. The first devices were ordered on 10 September, and the first devices were dispatched on 10 September.

Description	Data
Devices (laptops and tablets) delivered or dispatched to LAs or trusts (as of 22 October)	105,508

Table 2: Devices progress data in last week

Description	Data
Devices (laptops and tablets) delivered or dispatched to LAs or trusts from 19-22 October	9,493

Progress data for connectivity

Table 3: 4G routers progress data since start of scheme

Description	Data
4G routers delivered (as of 22 October)	51,194

Table 3: Connectivity pilot solutions progress data since start of scheme

Description	Data
Number of Mobile Network Operator requests through pilot (as of 22 October)	205

Number of BT WIFI vouchers allocated through pilot (as of 22 October)	9,930

Definitions

Definition	Description
Devices and 4G wireless routers ordered	LAs, trusts and schools are invited to order devices when there is a disruption to face-to-face education as a result of Coronavirus. When the laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers have arrived with our delivery partner, Computacenter, they are made available for schools, trusts and LAs to order. They have a choice of ordering devices set up with DfE security settings or a standard device that they can immediately install their own existing school settings to.
Devices delivered or dispatched	A device is a laptop or tablet along with a protective sleeve and, where a school has opted to receive a pre-secured device, software licences. Delivered or dispatched means the device has been dispatched from the storage facility, or is in transit awaiting delivery on a date specified by the recipient. Shipments are running on a two business day delivery basis and two redelivery attempts are made before the delivery is returned.
4G wireless routers delivered or dispatched	This refers to a unit which provides mobile internet access through a secure SIM. Delivered or dispatched means the 4G wireless router has been dispatched from the storage facility, or is in transit awaiting delivery on a date specified by the recipient. Shipments are running on a two business day delivery basis and two redelivery attempts are made before the delivery is returned.
Mobile Network Operator requests	This refers to a request for an increase in mobile data allowance raised by a Local Authority or Trust and passed to DfE. Through our pilot Mobile Network Operators have been provided this information and facilitated increases to mobile data allowances for their customers.
BT Wifi vouchers issued	This refers to a BT wifi "voucher" issued to a LA or Trust for onward distribution to a child or young person through our pilot. The vouchers enable users to log on to BT's public wifi hotspots.

The Department for Education does not collect delivery receipt data for devices, 4G wireless routers, or BT vouchers. The cost of collecting this data, which would require tracking a large network of different couriers and local arrangements that use different systems, would outweigh the benefits.

The data reported here is not representative of devices or connectivity reaching children. From the point of delivery to the LA or trust, that LA or trust is responsible for distributing the devices and connectivity to children.

Data Quality

This data is produced by Computacenter on behalf of the Department for Education.

LAs, trusts and schools place their orders in an order management system which is supported by a SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform. Quality checks operate every day within the ERP platform. There have been no errors in the transactional volume data reported to date. If a data error is reported, this would lead to a full investigation using Computacenter's quality management system, and would be disclosed immediately to the Department for Education.

Department for Education

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