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Dear Liam,

Scottish 4G Infill Programme

I am writing to you to share some information about the [Scottish 4G Infill programme](#) (S4GI) and, specifically, about the mast recently built and activated at Stronsay, Orkney, of which you may already be aware, and the benefits that it will bring to the local area.

Arising from the Scottish Government's 2016 [Mobile Action Plan](#), the S4GI programme was established following our recognition of the need for direct government support to fund the deployment of 4G masts in some of the most rural areas of Scotland.

The S4GI programme is a £28.75 million investment intended to improve mobile connectivity in parts of Scotland where there is no mobile coverage from any mobile network operator. The programme is being funded by the Scottish Government and is delivering 4G mobile infrastructure and services in 55 so-called coverage "notspots". It represents a vital part of Scottish Government's wider portfolio of digital connectivity programmes, which includes the [Reaching 100% Programme](#), which is delivering access to superfast broadband to all remaining hard-to-reach addresses throughout the country. Together, we believe that these investments will deliver the critical national infrastructure that will underpin Scotland's future economic success.

About the Stronsay Mast

The requirement for improved mobile coverage at Stronsay was identified as a result of Scotland-wide coverage analysis conducted by the programme and we were delighted to formally add the location to the S4GI programme in July 2021.

The mast has gone live in March 2023, providing vital 4G connectivity to both residents and visitors to the area through the mobile network operator EE. Simultaneously, the mast will be used by EE to provide coverage in connection with its Emergency Services Network requirements in the location. Significantly, the mast has also enabled 999 calls to be made in those areas where connectivity was currently lacking.



S4GI Programme in action

Households and businesses in Strathconon, Littlemill, Tarskavaig, Blairmore, Glenborrodale, Killilan, Applecross, Polbain, Skerray, Balmacara, Elgol and Inverchoran (Highland); Ettrick, Whitropefoot, Deanburnhaugh and Traquair (Scottish Borders); Chapeltown (Moray); Glenbarr, Bunessan, Carrine and Lochbuie (Argyll and Bute); New Luce, Loch Head, Ae, Cairngarroch and Auchenhessnane (Dumfries & Galloway); Collieston and Bogton Turriff (Aberdeenshire); Lemreway, Ranish, Manish and Baymore (Western Isles); Reawick (Shetland); Deerness, and Burray (Orkney); Garvald (East Lothian) are also benefitting from the availability of 4G services from masts which have gone live through the S4GI programme. We also have a pipeline of further activations to complete delivery of the programme over spring 2023.

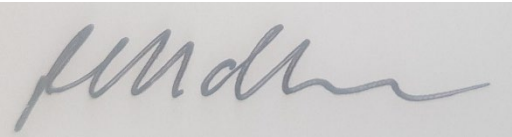
For instance, the S4GI mast previously activated in Burray, Orkney has been transformational for this community. Local residents in this area have been able to capitalise on the new connectivity to enhance the way they work, communicate with friends and family, access public services, purchase products and services or consume entertainment. We believe that this new mast in Stronsay will be also be transformational for both locals and visitors.

Further information

You can find out more about the S4GI programme and a map of the areas set to benefit on the Scottish Government's [website](#), which is being updated on a regular basis as the programme rolls out, or please contact digitalconnectivity@gov.scot.

Additionally, Scottish Government's Digital Connectivity Twitter account [@DigConnectScot](#) provides regular updates on S4GI and the rest of the Digital Connectivity portfolio programmes.

Yours sincerely,



Robbie McGhee
Deputy Director, Digital Connectivity
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

