

NEWS BRIEF

Presented by **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

Free Government Grants to Boost Your Broadband

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has introduced the Connection Voucher Scheme (CVS) to help businesses in 50 UK cities receive free grants to boost their broadband. Businesses that qualify can apply to receive a maximum grant of £3,000 to upgrade their Internet connections. Boosting broadband speed can greatly expand a business' potential, since Internet connections determine how quickly information can be sent.

Who Is Eligible

Businesses are able to apply for CVS if they operate in one of the 50 eligible cities listed here: www.connectionvouchers.co.uk/cities. Businesses must also meet the following qualifications:

- Be a SME, registered charity, social enterprise or sole trader and employ fewer than 250 staff or volunteers
- Have a turnover of less than €50 million and/or a balance sheet less than €43 million
- Must not have received more than €200,000 in grants during the past three years
- Must have a broadband connection installation that will cost more than £100
- Must use the connection on business premises and not a temporary home office
- Must sign at least a six-month contract with the broadband provider
- Must have an upgrade that delivers a speed or performance improvement on the current connection

How To Apply

To apply for CVS, follow these five steps:

1. Verify that your business is in an eligible area with the Postcode Checker: www.connectionvouchers.co.uk.
2. Receive a firm quote for the cost of the broadband installation and upgrade from an approved supplier: www.connectionvouchers.co.uk/suppliers.
3. Find your city's specific application on the Cities page and complete the form.
4. If your business is chosen as a grant recipient, you have 28 days to place your order with the supplier you received the quote from.
5. Once the connection has been made, submit a copy of the supplier invoice to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Benefits of Faster Broadband

CVS provides businesses with the opportunity to greatly increase their broadband speeds, which has many benefits:

- Helps increase ability to successfully operate and compete in a global marketplace
- Allows you to multitask without slowing your Internet connection
- Increases research and development agility
- Encourages greater collaboration

For more information on CVS, visit www.connectionvouchers.co.uk. And for more guidance on preparing your business for success, contact **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd** today.

