



DC18-174

June 18, 2018

Glasgow shoppers set to benefit from free ultrafast wi-fi and phone calls

InLinkUK from BT: Innovative digital street units go live in Glasgow

One-year anniversary of the first InLinks in the UK

Glasgow is the first Scottish city to join the InLinkUK from BT service, which already has 100,000 subscribers and offers the UK's fastest free public wi-fi plus a range of digital services. The first 12 InLinks being installed in Glasgow city centre can deliver ultrafast wi-fi speeds of up to one gigabit per second (1Gbps), the fastest free public wi-fi service available in the UK. Free phone calls to UK landlines and mobiles, charging points for mobile phones and access to the BT Phone Book are also available.

Glasgow is the second city outside of London to benefit from the new service, and its launch marks the first anniversary of the first UK InLink being activated in London. InLinks mean more space on pavements, as on average, they replace two standard modern phone boxes. BT's iconic red phone boxes are not affected.

Scotland's first InLink has already gone live on Buchanan Street, within Glasgow's 'Style Mile', a square mile encompassing the largest retail centre in Britain, outside London. As well as hundreds of large and independent shops, the city is home to major tourist destinations such as Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Riverside Museum and Glasgow Science Centre, and boasts several major theatres and three leading universities. This new communications service in the heart of the city will cement Glasgow as one of the UK's most digitally connected cities.

The UK rollout has so far seen nearly 150 InLinks installed in eight London boroughs and Leeds city centre, with hundreds more to be installed across the UK. Since the first InLink was installed in June last year, more than 100,000 people have subscribed to the service's free wi-fi, using enough data to download the equivalent of over 12 million songs. The InLinks have also saved users more than £352,000 in free calls, with 33,000 calls being

made on average every week.

The InLinks also offer additional digital services, including being accessible to those who have a visual impairment and want to use TalkBack. One of the InLink's newest features is its free one-touch lifelines to four national charities. Free calls can be made via the tablet to Childline, End Youth Homelessness, Runaway Helpline and Samaritans.

The community and Glasgow City Council are also benefiting from the digital displays on the InLinks that run real-time information, including the weather forecast and other local information. All of these services are provided to the community at no public cost, as the project is funded by advertising revenue. Each InLink provides more than 1,000 hours of local messaging a year, acting as a community notice board for the local area.

Annie Wells, MSP for Glasgow, unveiled the first Glasgow InLink. She said: "It's fantastic that Glasgow is the first Scottish city to be chosen by InLinkUK and BT as the home for this exciting state-of-the-art digital technology.

"Glasgow has such a vibrant city centre and from my days working in Argyle Street to days spent shopping and eating in its many great restaurants, it has always retained its true character. Allowing people to access information and support helplines free of charge will add much to a city already bursting with creativity and entrepreneurial spark."

Neil Scoresby, BT's general manager for payphones and InLinkUK, said: "Today's launch in Glasgow brings the fastest free public wi-fi in the UK to Scotland. Residents and visitors alike are set to benefit from this new state-of-the-art 'phone box', where they can also make calls for free, access local information and even charge their 'phone when out and about."

Matt Bird, general manager for InLinkUK, added: "Glasgow marks an important milestone in the national InLink rollout. With the introduction of the InLinks in the city, Scotland becomes the second nation in the UK to welcome this digital evolution. We are making great progress in our journey of creating smart communities, and with the InLinks offering free ultrafast wi-fi and a host of other free digital services, we are well on our way to achieving this in key UK cities."

InLinkUK from BT is a partnership between BT and tech start up InLinkUK.

Enquiries:

For further information about this news release please contact the BT Scotland Press Office on 0800 085 0660

All BT news releases can be accessed at [the BT Newsroom website](#). You can also [subscribe to receive all BT announcements here](#) and you can [follow us on Twitter here](#)

For InLinkUK: See the media pack (including image library): <http://insight.newgatecomms.com/111b/inlinkuk-press-pack>

Call 020 7680 6550 or email InLinkUK@newgatecomms.com

Follow us on Twitter [here](#)

Notes to Editors

About InLinkUK

InLinkUK is a new communications network that will replace over 1,000 pay phones in major cities across the UK, with new units called InLinks.

Each InLink provides ultrafast, free public wi-fi, phone calls, device charging and a tablet for access to city services, maps and directions, connecting those who visit, live and work in urban hubs across the UK.

Hundreds of users within range of an InLink will be able to access free ultrafast Wi-Fi on the move, with speeds of up to 1Gbps - the fastest free public wi-fi service available.

InLinkUK from BT is being brought to the UK through a joint venture between Intersection, the urban innovation company behind LinkNYC, and Primesight, a leading UK out-of-home media company, in partnership with BT.

Learn more at <http://www.inlinkuk.com>

BT's wi-fi network in the UK:

BT already operates the biggest network in the UK, giving customers unlimited access to the most extensive wi-fi coverage with more than five million hotspots.

Images:

For images, see [The BT Media Image library](#) and [Telefocus - historical images from BT Archives](#).

About BT

BT's purpose is to use the power of communications to make a better world. It is one of the world's leading providers of communications services and solutions, serving customers in 180 countries. Its principal activities include the provision of networked IT services globally; local, national and international telecommunications services to its customers for use at home, at work and on the move; broadband, TV and internet products and services; and converged fixed-mobile products and services. BT consists of four customer-facing units:

Consumer, Enterprise, Global Services and Openreach.

For the year ended 31 March 2018, BT Group's reported revenue was £23,723m with reported profit before taxation of £2,616m.

British Telecommunications plc (BT) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT Group plc and encompasses virtually all businesses and assets of the BT Group. BT Group plc is listed on stock exchanges in London and New York.

For more information, visit www.btplc.com