Department for Education

Devices and 4G wireless routers data

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

Contents

Introduction	3
Progress data	4
Definitions	4
Data Quality	5

Get technology support for disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people during Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Introduction

Laptops and tablets are being provided for disadvantaged and vulnerable families, children and young people who do not currently have access to them through another source, to enable access to remote education and social care services during Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers are being given to local authorities and academy trusts, who will own the devices and distribute them to families, children and young people.

LAs and trusts can receive digital devices for:

- care leavers
- children and young people aged 0 to 19, or young children's families, with a social worker
- disadvantaged year 10 pupils

Internet access is also being provided through 4G wireless routers for any of the following people who do not currently have it:

- care leavers
- secondary school pupils with a social worker
- disadvantaged year 10 pupils

The Department for Education has ordered over 200,000 laptops and tablets and over 50,000 4G wireless routers based on its estimate of the number of children and young people in the eligible categories set out above.

LAs and trusts were invited to forecast the number of devices they needed to support children and young people, who they are responsible for, in the eligible categories. This process began when the first surveys were issued on 24th April. When LAs and trusts completed the survey, their allocated number of devices and routers was confirmed with them by the Department for Education. LAs and trusts could request additional devices, for eligible children, if needed.

Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers are set up with security and safeguarding settings by the Department for Education's delivery partner, Computacenter. When devices are ready to order, the LA or trust is invited to order devices and routers online. When orders are confirmed, Computacenter dispatches the devices.

This publication shares the number of devices that have been delivered or dispatched to LAs and trusts to date. 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 and trusts themselves.

Information published on the programme to date is available here:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Progress data

Table 1: Progress data since start of the programme. The first devices were ordered on 15th May, and the first devices were dispatched on 18th May.

Devices (laptops and tablets) delivered or dispatched to LAs or trusts (as of 14th June)	114,536
4G wireless routers delivered or dispatched to LAs or trusts (as of 14th June)	22,518

Table 2: Progress data in last week

Devices (laptops and tablets) delivered or dispatched to LAs or trusts from 8th-14th June	46,835
4G wireless routers delivered or dispatched to LAs or trusts from 8th-14th June	9,871

Definitions

Devices forecast	LAs and trusts completed a survey that asked them to forecast how many devices they needed for the children and young people that they are responsible for. The number they forecasted was assessed against the Department for Education's initial estimate and an allocation was confirmed with them.
Devices and 4G wireless routers ordered	LAs and trusts are invited to order devices when they have arrived with the Department for Education's delivery partner, Computacenter, and had security and safeguarding settings applied. Invitations to order have been staggered to align with when stock becomes available.
Devices delivered or dispatched	A device is a laptop or tablet along with a protective sleeve and 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 next 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 routers 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 next business day delivery basis and two redelivery attempts are made before the delivery is returned.

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

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

Data Quality

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

LAs and trusts 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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