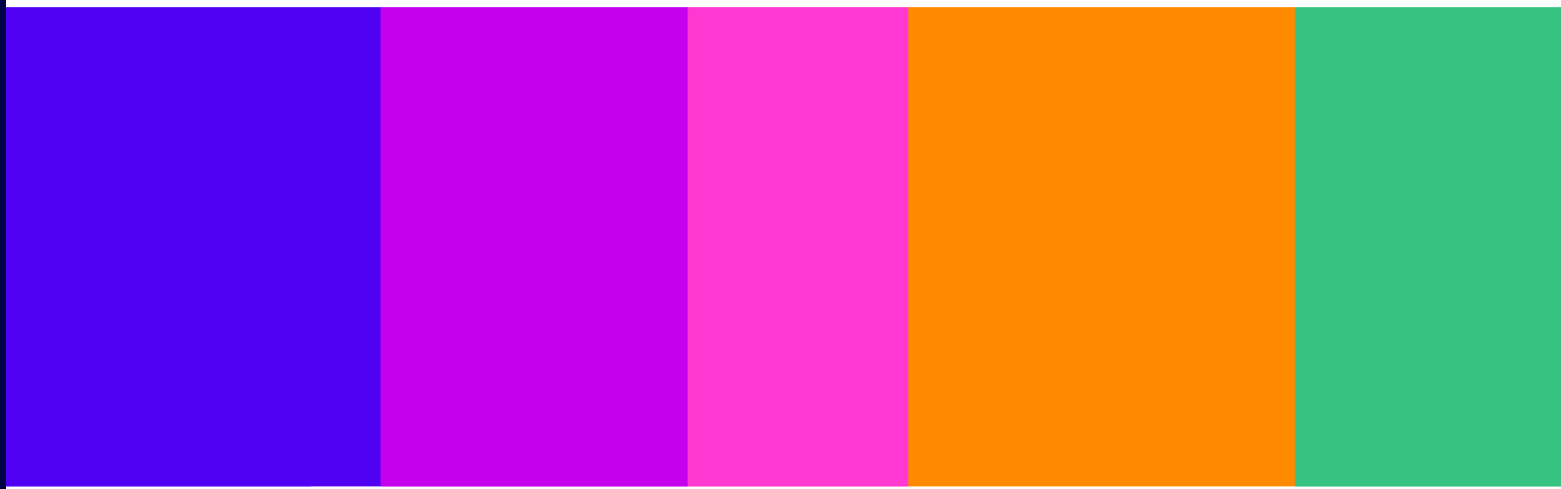


Shared Rural Network (SRN) Coverage Obligations – 2024 assessment update

Update on our assessment for Three

Statement

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1. SRN coverage obligations: Update on our assessment for Three

- 1.1 On 12 September 2024, Ofcom published an update on the compliance of the UK’s four mobile network operators (the “MNOs”) with their Shared Rural Network (SRN) coverage obligations (the “[September 2024 statement](#)”). This assessment was informed by coverage predictions submitted by the mobile network operators for the time these obligations fell due (30 June 2024), and our subsequent measurement work.
- 1.2 In that update, we confirmed that BT EE, Virgin Media O2 and Vodafone had met the relevant coverage thresholds. We found that Three had met its nations thresholds for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but had not met the UK-wide and Scotland thresholds at the time the obligations fell due. We also noted that based on the work we had undertaken to that point, the coverage predictions provided by Three were reasonable.
- 1.3 On 22 August 2024, Three informed us that - as of that date - it had met the outstanding UK-wide and Scotland coverage obligation thresholds (as indicated in our [September 2024 statement](#); paragraphs 1.4 and 6.6).
- 1.4 On 16 September, in response to a formal information request that we issued, Three provided additional data supporting these higher coverage levels. We have now completed our assessment of that data, and on that basis have found that Three has now met all the relevant thresholds.
- 1.5 Below we provide an overview of the required thresholds, and the levels predicted by Three in the new data submitted to us.

Table 1: Three’s 2024 UK-wide and Nation thresholds and its reported coverage levels as of 22 August 2024

UK / UK Nations	Three’s 2024 SRN coverage threshold requirements	Three’s predictions as of 22 August 2024
UK	88%	88.6%
England	91%	95.7%
Northern Ireland	91%	95.2%
Scotland	72%	76.0%
Wales	83%	87.5%

- 1.6 Our assessment of the additional data that Three supplied to support these updated predictions involved a combination of desk-based analysis and drive testing in selected locations where Three had reported new coverage. Our desk based analysis checked both the aggregate outcomes of Three’s predictions and that Three’s coverage met the SRN-specific location requirements for additional coverage (see paragraphs 2.11-2.13 of our [September 2024 statement](#)). Our additional drive-based field work, undertaken through October 2024, checked that new coverage shown in Three’s data was present in the areas predicted by Three. This drive-test campaign (which was undertaken to supplement

measurement work previously undertaken in July and August) covered approximately 2500 miles. The majority of this work was undertaken across Scotland and Wales, where most of the additional coverage was predicted.

Figure 1: Overview of Ofcom’s supplementary October 2024 drive-verification route (left) and areas where Three has added coverage since 30 June 2024 (right)



- 1.7 Following these additional checks, we are satisfied that Three has now met the 88% UK-wide and 72% Scotland coverage thresholds. On this basis, we have decided not to take enforcement action against Three in relation to these thresholds, which have now been met.

This update should be read in conjunction with our [September 2024 statement](#), which provides further detail on our overall approach, including our assessment of the accuracy of predictions provided by all MNOs.