**For Oral Answer on :** **01/06/2021**
**Question Number(s)**: **71** **Question Reference(s): 29371/21**
**Department:** **Environment, Climate and Communications**
**Asked by: Brian Stanley T.D.**
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**QUESTION**

[Ref No.: 29371/21]

 To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of completed connections made by the National Broadband Plan in 2020 and to date in 2021. - Brian Stanley.

For ORAL answer on Tuesday, 1st June, 2021.

(24  Received on 10th May, 2021.)

**REPLY**

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) State led Intervention will be delivered by National Broadband Ireland (NBI) under a contract to roll out a high speed and future proofed broadband network within the Intervention Area which covers 1.1 million people living and working in over 544,000 premises, including almost 100,000 businesses and farms along with 695 schools.

Despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, National Broadband Ireland has made steady progress on delivery of the new high speed fibre broadband network under the National Broadband Plan. I am advised by National Broadband Ireland that as at the 27 May over 220,000 premises have been surveyed across all counties.

This survey work has enabled detailed designs to be developed for each deployment area. The detailed designs are then used to initiate the ‘make ready’ project with Open eir, where Open eir ensure any poles and ducts being reused are fit for purpose and the make ready of other required infrastructure. This step also informs decisions on equipment ordering. Survey data is also needed to initiate pre-works which pave the way for the deploying of fibre. Pre-works involve construction of new duct routes, erection of poles, building chambers and tree trimming. On completion of these pre-works, the main construction works can commence.

The first fibre to the home connections are successfully connected in Carrigaline, Co Cork and Cavan with **almost 4,000 premises passed and available for** connection to date. Premises in Galway and Limerick are expected to be available for connection in the coming months.

I am advised that build works are continuing across the country in 12 deployment areas covering townlands in Carrigaline, Ballinasloe, Cavan, Clare, Dundalk, Galway, Limerick Monaghan, Roscommon, Tipperary, Tralee, Wexford and Carlow. In addition, "make ready" work is underway in a further 15 Deployment Areas.