



● UK NETWORK GUIDE · JUNE 2026

THE BIG SWITCH-OFF

Wednesday, 10 June 2026

The Copper Switch-Off: *2027 explained.*

On 31 January 2027 the UK's analogue phone network goes silent after more than a century. Here is what actually switches off, what does not, and exactly what your household should do.

31 Jan

2027, THE HARD STOP

Locked in, says Openreach

3.2M

WERE STILL TO MOVE

As of July 2025, falling fast

1hr+

BATTERY BACKUP, FREE

If you depend on the line

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Reviewed by **Adrian James**

Next review within 90 days

INDEPENDENT · FREE · NO SIGNUP

broadbandswitch.uk

SECTION 01 · AT A GLANCE

The switch-off at a glance

QUICK ANSWER

On **31 January 2027** the analogue phone network (the PSTN) is retired. **Phone calls move onto your broadband**, with the handset plugging into the router. **Your broadband itself does not switch off**, your number is kept, and for most homes the change is one engineerless swap. The people who must plan ahead are those with telecare alarms or no mobile signal, and the protections for them are real.

KEY FACTS · VERIFIED JUNE 2026

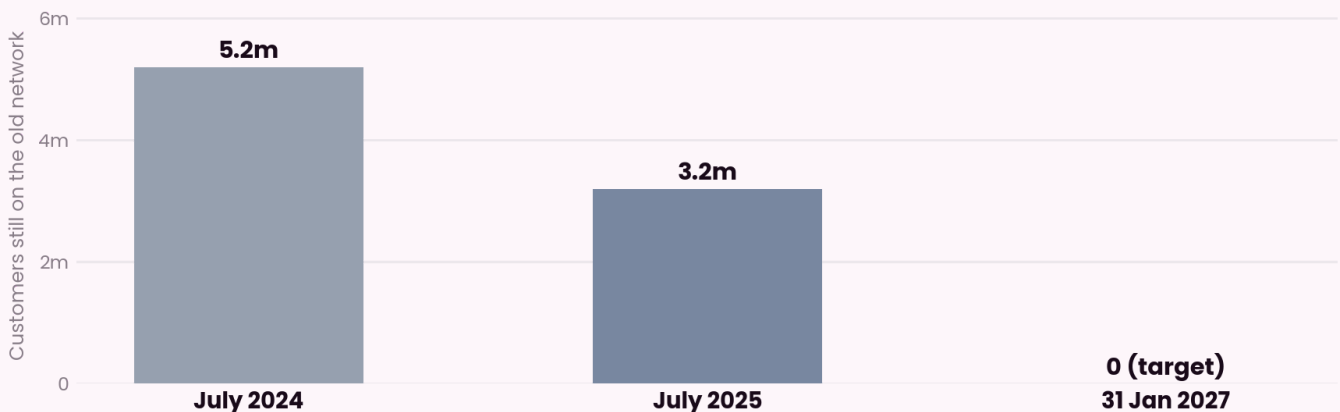
The deadline is fixed: 31 January 2027, described by Openreach as locked in, with no further extensions planned. The original date was December 2025, delayed to protect vulnerable users.

Migration is well advanced: customers still on the old network fell from 5.2 million in July 2024 to 3.2 million by July 2025.

It is the phone network, not your broadband: copper-based broadband such as FTTC keeps working after the date; it is analogue calling that ends.

Power cuts change: digital phones need mains power, so providers must give at least one hour of backup, free, to customers who depend on their landline.

Telecare users are specifically protected: under the industry charter, providers must not migrate telecare users until the device is confirmed to work digitally.



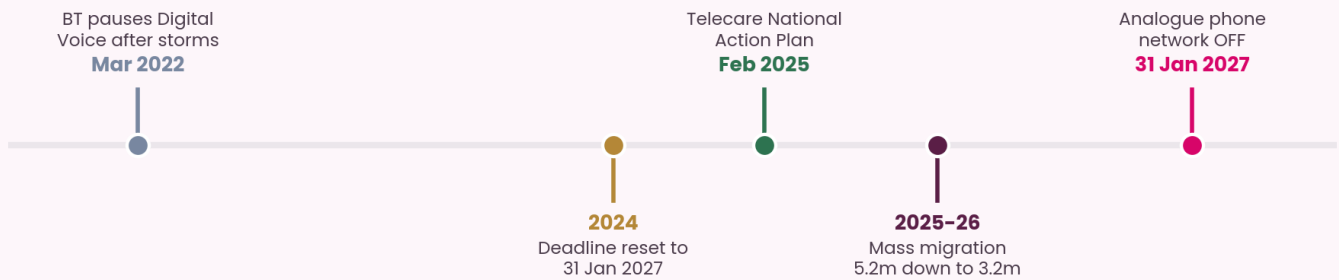
Customers still on the analogue network. The final migration runs through 2026, with the network off at the end of January 2027.

Sources: House of Commons Library; industry data.

SECTION 02 · THE STORY

How we got to 2027

The switch-off has been a long and, at times, bumpy road. The deadline moved once, and for the right reason: making sure the most vulnerable were not left behind.



The road to the switch-off. The deadline was reset from December 2025 to January 2027 to safely migrate telecare and vulnerable users.

- ✓ **Storms exposed the weak spot.** BT paused its Digital Voice rollout for over a year from March 2022 after long power cuts in the winter storms showed what happens when phones need mains power.
- ✓ **Telecare forced the rethink.** Some personal alarms stopped working in early migrations, so the deadline was reset to 31 January 2027 and a government-and-industry Telecare National Action Plan followed in February 2025.
- ✓ **The barriers are now cleared.** Openreach's telecare-checking service safely migrated more than a thousand alarm users in its pilot, and the operator says the technical obstacles are resolved, which is why the 2027 date is final.

SECTION 03 · YOUR HOUSEHOLD

What changes at your house

Find your situation below. For most homes this is a small change; for a few it needs genuine planning.

YOUR SITUATION	WHAT CHANGES	WHAT TO DO
Broadband only, no landline use	Effectively nothing	Nothing; carry on
Landline user with broadband	Phone replugs into the router; number kept	Wait for your provider's instructions
Landline only, no broadband	Moved to a dedicated landline-style service	Your provider arranges it; broadband not forced on you
Telecare or personal alarm user	Device must be checked before migration	Tell your phone AND alarm provider now
Vulnerable, or no mobile signal	Power-cut protection applies	Tell your provider; free battery backup, at least one hour
Still on ADSL or FTTC broadband	Broadband keeps working after the date	None required, but full fibre is the long-term home

Monitored burglar alarms, lift lines and some payment terminals also lean on the old network, so businesses and landlords should audit early. Your number survives every version of this: how that works in detail is at broadbandswitch.uk/what-happens-to-my-number-when-i-switch.html.

THE ONE GENUINE SAFETY POINT

A digital phone does not work in a power cut without a backup, unlike the old copper line. If anyone in your home relies on the landline for emergencies, tell your provider: at least one hour of free battery backup is your right, the industry charter pushes providers beyond that minimum, and a charged mobile is the sensible second layer.

SECTION 04 · THE BIGGER PICTURE

After the switch-off

- ✓ **Copper broadband does not die in 2027.** Where full fibre has not yet arrived, FTTC and ADSL carry on as broadband-only services. The phone network retires; the copper data line lingers until fibre replaces it.
- ✓ **But the direction is one-way.** New analogue products are already unsellable, exchanges are retiring ahead of the national date, and legacy line prices are rising sharply through 2026 to push the stragglers. Copper's full retirement follows the fibre rollout.
- ✓ **Full fibre is the destination.** 82% of UK homes can already get it, and it is the network everything, calls included, is moving to. If the switch-off is your prompt to upgrade, the timing is good: broadbandswitch.uk/fttp-broadband-deals.html.
- ✓ **Switching stays simple throughout.** One contact to the new provider handles everything, number included: broadbandswitch.uk/one-touch-switch-uk.html.

A CENTURY, IN PERSPECTIVE

The copper phone network carried British voices for over a hundred years, through everything from the first transatlantic calls to dial-up's screech. It earned its retirement. What replaces it is faster, clearer and built for the next century, and by the time you read this, most of the country is already there.

• READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT?

See the network that replaces it, at your address.

Compare full fibre and every other option at your postcode, with digital voice included where you want it.

[Compare live deals at your postcode →](#)

BROADBANDSWITCH.UK/COMPARE · 35+ PROVIDERS · 429 ISPS TRACKED

SECTION · REFERENCES

References and sources



Written by **Dr Alex J. Martin-Smith** (CMgr, MBA, LL.M, DBA), Lead Editor. Reviewed by **Adrian James**.
Published 10 June 2026, next review within 90 days. Every figure is sourced below and logged in our public corrections process at broadbandswitch.uk/corrections-log.html.

The deadline, protections and migration figures are drawn from parliamentary, regulatory and operator sources, listed in APA 7th edition format.

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Citing this guide: BroadbandSwitch.uk. (2026, June 10). *The UK copper switch-off 2027: What it means for your broadband*. SearchSwitchSave. <https://broadbandswitch.uk/guides/copper-switch-off-2027/>

REMEMBER

31 January 2027: calls move to broadband, your number survives, and your broadband itself keeps working. Telecare users and the landline-dependent should speak to their providers now; everyone else can simply pick the network of the next century at broadbandswitch.uk/compare.

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