

CMNet PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT FOR 2018

CMNet is about to enter year five of operation. The system continues to function as robustly as in previous years with only minor issues with equipment failures. The only major outage of the year was on August the 19th when we were hit with a power failure lasting about four hours.

In February a major first for CMNet was achieved when Phil fixed the Management Reporting System remotely from Norway. (eat your heart out BT)

The system currently has 1 x Fibre line coming from Plockton and 1 x Fibre line coming from Lochcarron. The line from Plockton is almost running at capacity and speeds are holding up well. The line from Lochcarron is not functioning as well as expected and is probably due to the poor quality of the BT line.

In July two Nano Stations were replaced in Ardaneaskan and realigned to enable a service at Craig. Five new installations were carried out, three in Achmore, one in Fernaig and one in Craig.

During March, April and May a huge proportion of time and effort was spent making sure that CMNet were compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations. We eventually achieved this and the relevant documentation can be accessed via the Stromeferry and Achmore web site.

Work has started on the new relays on Craig Mhaol; this involved transporting scaffolding, tools and 1.7 kilometres of armoured cable to the top of the hill. This could not have been achieved without the use of Phil's Argocat. Holes have been drilled into the rock and the scaffolding erected. Unfortunately, the Argocat has suffered a catastrophic gear box failure and there will now be a delay in getting the new enclosures and electronic equipment up the hill.

The data capacity of the system has now exceeded the 2 Tera Byte threshold for the last three months in a row. The tariff for the coming year will be reduced yet again. As from the 1st of December the new tariff will be £1 per 20GB for those who qualify.

The table below shows monthly usage and the daily averages. It can be quite clearly seen that the system is now being heavily used and we are probably nearing full capacity for the Plockton line.

	Monthly Usage (TB)	Daily Average (GB)
September 2017	1.16	38.66
October 2017	1.11	35.5
November 2017	1.35	45
December 2017	1.6	55.6
January 2018	1.46	47
February	1.23	43.9
March	1.5	48.5
April	1.37	45.9
May	1.45	47
June	1.39	46.4
July	1.93	62.48
August	2.45	79.1
September	2.1	69.8
October	2.25	75.0

We currently have 40 subscribers on one line from the Plockton exchange and currently no customers are connected to the line from Lochcarron.

We have another 34 customers waiting to be connected. A significant amount of work will be required to set up relays and carryout installations to achieve this.

We intend, in the near future, to purchase a new line from the Achmore exchange to give the system more flexibility.

Joe Grimson.