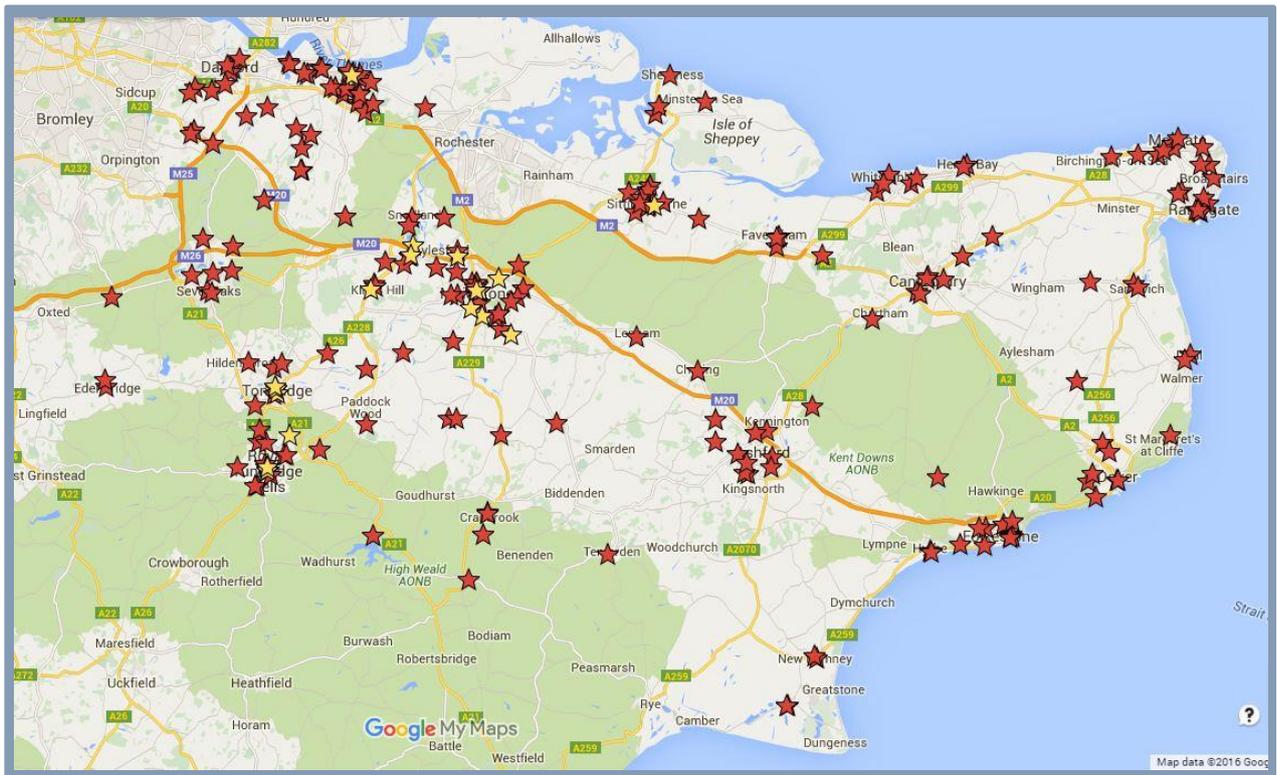


Kent Public Service Network

Public Sector Roaming A Brief Guide



Kent County Council Buildings  Other Public Sector Buildings 

Public Sector Roaming - A Brief Guide

The Kent Public Service Network (KPSN) is a broadband ICT network developed by a partnership of public sector agencies. Built to the highest standards, this integrated network has been designed to meet the growing demands for better access to services, on-line service delivery and multi-agency shared services. As part of their service offerings KPSN provides a public sector roaming service called PSNRoam.

PSNRoam is a technology that will allow PSNRoam registered organisations to connect to the Internet seamlessly from PSNRoam enabled buildings.

The benefits of this service to registered PSNRoam organisations are as follows:

- Increases the productivity of mobile workers by enabling them to easily connect from any public sector building (that offers PSNRoam).
- Allows staff to work flexibly from various locations across the public estate across Kent and beyond.
- Improves disaster recovery and business continuity operations by enabling staff to easily relocate to alternative sites and have access to their online systems.
- Facilitates health/social care interaction by enabling connectivity at NHS sites.
- Improves professional development and training by enabling connectivity at Higher Education and school sites (including joint publishing of Eduroam and PSNRoam). (Eduroam is the Further Education/Higher Education equivalent of PSNRoam and is used extensively within that community.)
- Less reliance on mobile 3G/4G “dongles” to provide connectivity for mobile workers.

Public Sector organisations wishing to use or have access to this service can set-up their internal wireless services within their buildings to support PSNRoam and publish the PSNRoam wireless identifier. This service will then connect automatically to the KPSN central service to manage the approval for visiting staff from other PSNRoam registered organisations via the local wireless service and then the Internet.

To access the service an organisation does not necessarily have to be connected to KPSN. Organisations wishing to have access to the service would firstly contact KPSN where, depending upon their KPSN status (a KPSN member or external), they will be guided through the connection process as well as using the service going forward.

PSNRoam will not be all pervasive; it is dependent upon organisations taking up the service. The more organisations that do, the wider the PSNRoam estate will become. As an organisation rolls out the service, it will provide a list of offices connected to the service to KPSN. A list of participating organisations is shown in Annex A. This list will grow over time and will be supplemented by a list of buildings that the service can be accessed from.

The Future of PSNRoam - govroam

Currently, PSNRoam will only provide access to the Internet for staff from participating organisations to PSNRoam sites. Development is underway to enhance the connectivity experience to provide for KPSN Partners to have access to the host network from KPSN connected buildings. This, in effect, delivers a local network to where they are, turning every KPSN building publishing PSNRoam into an organisation's local office. This extension to the service has been defined and should be available towards the end of the current calendar year.

Public sector organisations across the country, sponsored by Jisc, are now taking this initiative on board and developing a similar service called govroam. The design of this service is comparable to that of PSNRoam. Once the pilot has been completed, PSNRoam will merge with the new service to become govroam. This will, in effect, bring other public sector buildings into the club and truly enable roaming. It is, and would still only be, available to PSNRoam registered organisations. This will extend the reach of roaming to across the wider Public Sector allowing a greater number of Public Servants to work from govroam enabled buildings.

An Example

Assuming that KCC and NHS1 (a fictional organisation) are both PSNRoam registered organisations and that all sites of these organisations are publishing the PSNRoam wireless identifier then the following should happen for either organisation:

A KCC Officer will turn up at a NHS1 site. The KCC Officer will be able to start up their laptop which will automatically look for the PSNRoam wireless network. When found, the laptop will request access to the wireless. If that KCC Officer is a registered user of PSNRoam (this would be set by KCC) then the NHS1 site wireless service will enable the KCC laptop to connect and allow Internet access. The KCC Officer would then be able to connect to KCC services via the Internet and A2K* at the moment.

This would work in exactly the same way for the NHS1 officer in a KCC site publishing the PSNRoam wireless identifier.

The more organisations that take up this service, the more sites staff will be able to work from.

For further details please contact Jeff Wallbank, Head of KPSN:

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**Access-to-Kent (A2K) allows a KCC mobile device (i.e. laptop or tablet) that is connected to a non-KCC network (e.g. a home network or Wi-Fi hotspot) to establish a direct and secure connection to the KCC network. Effectively your mobile device will have full access to the KCC network as though it was plugged in with a network cable at a KCC office.*

ANNEX A

Public Sector Organisations in Kent

Participating Organisations

Local Authorities

- Ashford Borough Council
- **East Kent Services** - Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Medway Council
- **Mid Kent Services** - Maidstone Borough Council, Swale Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
- Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
- Sevenoaks District Council
- Shepway District Council

Health

- South East Commissioning Support Unit (SECSU)
- East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT)

Blue Lights

- Kent Fire & Rescue Service
- Kent Police

Education

- Kent Schools (EiS)

Coming on-board shortly

- Further Education and Higher Education
Universities and Colleges already have eduroam but they are also rolling out PSNRoam making it easier for example; for trainee doctors and trainee nurses to connect at their educational establishments as well as at their teacher training hospitals.
- Medway Community Health (MCH)

Where is the Service available?

As the number of sites is growing exponentially KPSN are working towards gathering together a full list of sites so that they can be published online in due course.