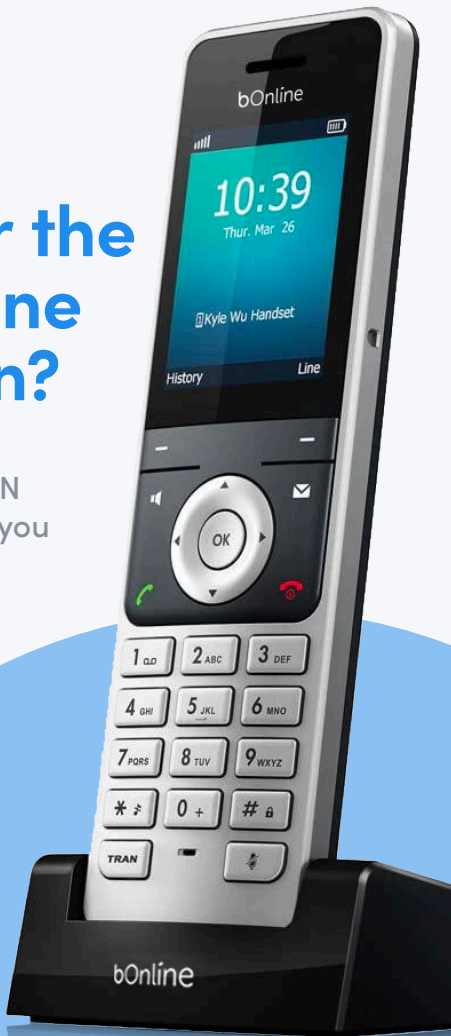


bOnline

# Are you ready for the UK landline shutdown?

Facts about the PSTN switch-off and why you should act now





A major change is coming to the UK's telecoms network, with landlines being phased out of use and the system switched off from 2025.

Openreach, the organisation responsible for building and maintaining the UK's phone network, will turn off the country's analogue public switched telephone network (PSTN) – landlines to the layperson – as part of a phased switchover to digital telephony for the whole of the country.

This will affect many businesses, with small firms especially likely to require an upgrade. At present, 2.4 million businesses in the UK still rely on traditional phone line systems to support their operations, but what does this mean for you?



# What systems rely on landlines today?

A host of business functions that you might not be aware of still rely on traditional landlines to carry information and to operate correctly. As well as voice services, these include:



Access to payment gateways



Processing card payments



Security systems



CCTV



Door entry systems



Lift lines

This is just a selection of the processes and systems that will need to be transferred away from PSTN and ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network - which is reliant on the landline network to operate) before the landline switch off, or you could face the prospect of significant disruption to your business operations.

## When is this happening?

**Now**

The simple answer is that the phased approach to landline shutdown in the UK is already underway. Openreach is already implementing a 'stop sell' schedule that will see more than 550 exchanges across the country removed from the legacy network.

This is set to be completed by the end of 2023 and means businesses will no longer be able to buy new landline services after this date.

**2023**



**2025**

The network will then be switched off entirely in 2025.



## So, what should I be doing to avoid disruption?

If you want to make sure your business isn't affected by the PSTN switch-off and you can continue to operate in the new digital-only era, you need to act now. That means transferring your current landline services to digital, VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) solutions.

Failing to act could mean missing out on crucial new opportunities or customers may struggle to contact you when the switch-off takes place. Moreover, systems you rely on will cease to function and that could really hurt your business.



### It's not all doom and gloom!

There are some impressive benefits for those who switch early! Call charges and 'line rental' for VoIP are significantly cheaper on average (especially for international calls) than landline alternatives, while the enhanced quality, stability and flexibility of digital services can help to take your business to the next level.