

This factsheet and plan have been prepared to support understanding of the final stage of the RTS phase-out and provide a high-level overview of areas due to be impacted.

## Background

- As the energy system modernises, it is inevitable that older technologies that are no longer sustainable will be retired, and the Radio Teleswitch (RTS) service is one of these legacy systems now reaching the end of its operational life. RTS technology utilises longwave radio signals to remotely control certain electricity meters installed in homes and businesses.
- These meters were specifically designed to automatically switch between different electricity rates such as lower cost off-peak tariffs and higher peak rates. This enables households, particularly those reliant on electric storage heating or without access to gas, to benefit from cheaper overnight electricity while maintaining efficient heating and hot water management.
- Introduced in the 1980s, RTS infrastructure is now increasingly outdated and difficult to maintain; crucial transmitters at Droitwich, Westerglen, and Burghead can no longer be sustained without considerable additional costs to consumers .
- Since 2011, suppliers have also been required to replace traditional RTS meters with modern smart meters, which offer greater reliability and functionality. Continuing to depend on this ageing infrastructure poses a growing risk of sudden failure. For these reasons, the timely replacement of RTS meters is vital to protect consumers and ensure secure, modern metering arrangements for the future.

## RTS phase-out approach

- The RTS phase-out is a carefully designed and managed programme to transition consumers onto smart metering arrangements, with sequencing, safeguards, and weekly checkpoints built in to minimise the risk of disruption to consumers.
- The phase-out involves switching off 262 Group Codes (GCs) which are internal industry identifiers for groups of RTS meters that are controlled by the longwave radio signal.
- GCs are designed for operational planning rather than public communication. Because a single GC can span multiple local authorities and constituencies, they do not map neatly onto recognisable community or geographic boundaries, meaning they offer little value for public-facing messaging.
- The phase-out began with Stages 1 and 2 in 2025 with the longwave radio signal switched-off for approximately 20,000 consumers.
- It was then paused over winter to avoid impacting households and businesses during colder months. The final stage of phase out will resume as Stage 3 commences from 2 March 2026 through to 17 June 2026.

## Stage 3 – The final stage of the phase-out

- Stage 3 of the RTS phase-out will **start on 2 March 2026 and end on 17 June 2026**. During this stage, 173 GCs are scheduled to be switched-off over 15 weeks.
- The switch off of each GC is conducted on a week-by-week basis which is governed by Ofgem's Go/No-Go process. This process acts as the core decision-making checkpoint

for the RTS phase-out. Before any GC is switched off, suppliers submit updated RFI data, including consumer engagement information and operational readiness, which Ofgem reviews to assess whether conditions are suitable for that week's planned switch-off.

- The Go/No-Go meeting then determines whether the scheduled GC switch off can proceed, needs mitigation, or should be deferred due to risks such as weather, engineering capacity, data gaps, or consumer vulnerability concerns.
- This ensures that Group Code switch off is controlled, evidence-based, and responsive to real-time risks, rather than automatic or fixed.

### **Our ask**

- Consumers should arrange a meter replacement as soon as possible and not wait for their GC to be switched off. The GCs are operational planning tools and not indicators of when a consumer should take action. The sooner the customer contacts their supplier, the less likely they will see any impact from phase out, and the aim is to replace meters before each GC is phased out.
- It is important that all consumers affected by the RTS phase-out respond promptly to any communication from their energy supplier about replacing their RTS meter.
- Suppliers are continuing to contact affected households through letters, phone calls, emails, and in-person visits.
- If a consumer experiences any interruption to their heating or hot water, they should contact their supplier immediately. Suppliers have confirmed they are prepared to respond rapidly.

### **The benefits of smart**

- Replacing an outdated RTS meter with a modern smart meter brings significant benefits. Not only do they provide access to a wider range of energy tariffs and greater control over electricity usage, but they also make it significantly easier to switch suppliers, ensuring that consumers can always take advantage of the most competitive deals available in the market.
- With a smart meter, households and businesses can avoid losing access to cheaper off-peak rates for heating and hot water, which may be discontinued with the phase-out of RTS meters.
- Smart meters offer much clearer and real-time insights into energy consumption, empowering households and businesses to manage their usage more effectively and identify opportunities to reduce costs. This improved visibility can help consumers to spot patterns, change habits, and make more informed decisions about energy use.

### **For more information**

- Ofgem will continue to monitor suppliers' progress closely throughout Stage 3 of the RTS phase-out.
- If you have any questions or would like more detailed information about the number of remaining RTS meters in an area (parliamentary constituency or local authority), please contact us at [Parliamentary.Correspondence@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:Parliamentary.Correspondence@ofgem.gov.uk).

- If you have further questions around the use of smart meters and their benefits to consumers then [Smart Energy GB](#) also offers a consumer guide on smart meter benefits. You can also access the [Ofgem RTS Toolkit](#) here.

## Radio Teleswitch (RTS) Phase-Out Stage 3 Factsheet and plan

**Stage 3 of the RTS phase-out**

The below plan outlines local authority areas, for the sake of brevity, to be impacted each week by the RTS phase-out. However, we do have geographic data at a more local level which we can facilitate access to where appropriate.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Week commencing:</b>	<b>Postcode areas to be impacted:</b>
England and Wales phase-out commences:	March 2, 2026	Guildford, Redhill, Bromley, Croydon, Sutton, Kingston upon Thames, Twickenham, London SE, London SW, Southall, Ilford, Dartford, Kent and Medway, Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells, Brighton
	March 9, 2026	Manchester, Bolton, Stockport, Preston, Blackpool, Lancaster, Warrington, Leeds, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Stoke-on-Trent, Shrewsbury, Telford, Hereford, Worcester, Leicester, Nottingham, Cambridge, Peterborough, Ipswich, Norwich, Chelmsford, Colchester, Stevenage, Luton, Bath, Bristol, Gloucester, Swindon, Salisbury, Dorchester, Oxford, Guildford, Redhill, Reading, Slough, Portsmouth, Southampton, Enfield, Harrow, Hemel Hempstead, London N, London NW, London W, Southall, Watford, Romford, Southend, London East, Twickenham, St Albans, Milton Keynes
	March 16, 2026	Carlisle, Lancaster, Blackpool, Preston, Blackburn, Wigan, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Stockport, Huddersfield, Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield, York, Hull, Doncaster, Sheffield, Llandrindod Wells, Shrewsbury, Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Lincoln, Northampton, Peterborough, Cambridge, Ipswich, Norwich, Colchester, Chelmsford, Enfield, Harrow, London N, London NW, London W, Southall, Romford, Southend, St Albans, Hemel Hempstead, Watford, Stevenage, Luton, Milton Keynes, Reading, Slough, Guildford, Oxford, Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Salisbury, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Dorchester, Exeter, Taunton, Torquay, Truro, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Twickenham, Plymouth
	March 23, 2026	Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham, Darlington, Cleveland, York, Harrogate, Leicester, Northampton, Peterborough, Cambridge, Ipswich, Norwich, Chelmsford, Medway, Canterbury, Dartford, Tonbridge, Redhill, Guildford, Sutton, Kingston upon Thames, Bromley, Croydon, Ilford, London East, London EC, London N, London NW, London W, London WC, London SE, London SW, Twickenham, Shrewsbury, Llandrindod Wells, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Brighton
	March 30, 2026	Gloucester, Oxford, Swindon, Hemel Hempstead, Reading, Slough, Guildford, Redhill, Southall, London W, Twickenham, Salisbury, Bath, Dorchester, Bournemouth, Southampton, Portsmouth, Brighton

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Scotland phase-out commences:	April 6, 2026	Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kilmarnock, Dumfries, Galashiels, Darlington, Durham, Doncaster, Sheffield, Manchester, Stoke- Stoke-on--on-Trent, Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham, Lincoln, Northampton, Peterborough, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Guildford, Redhill, Kingston upon Thames, Sutton, Croydon, Bromley, Ilford, Medway, Canterbury, Dartford, Tonbridge, London East, London EC, London N, London NW, London SE, London SW, Twickenham, London W, London WC, Exeter, Taunton, Plymouth, Truro, Bristol, Brighton
	April 13, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Galashiels, Dumfries, Kirkcaldy, York, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Halifax, Doncaster, Sheffield, Hull, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Coventry, Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford, Shrewsbury, Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester, Ipswich, Colchester, Chelmsford, Norwich, Peterborough, Stevenage, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Oxford, Romford, London N, Southend
	April 20, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham, Darlington, Harrogate, Cleveland, York
	April 27, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham, Darlington, Cleveland, Harrogate, York, Ilford, Romford, London East, London EC, London N, London NW, London SE, London SW, London W, London WC, Bromley, Croydon, Dartford, Kingston upon Thames, Twickenham
	May 4, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Doncaster, Sheffield, Stockport, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Northampton, Birmingham, Coventry, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Gloucester, Salisbury, Bath, Swindon, Reading, Slough, Guildford, Portsmouth, Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorchester, Twickenham, Southall
	May 11, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Carlisle, Lancaster, Blackpool, Blackburn, Preston, Bolton, Stockport, Oldham, Manchester, Doncaster, Sheffield, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Lincoln, Northampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Milton Keynes, Peterborough, Oxford, Gloucester, Dorchester, Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Exeter, Torquay, Truro, Salisbury, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Reading, Slough, Guildford, Twickenham, Southall

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	May 18, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Coventry, Northampton, Peterborough, Medway, Canterbury, Tonbridge, Redhill, Guildford, Kingston upon Thames, Twickenham, Croydon, Bromley, Dartford, London SE, Sutton, Brighton, Sheffield
	May 25, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Carlisle, Lancaster, Blackpool, Blackburn, Preston, Wigan, Warrington, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Stockport, Liverpool, Doncaster, Sheffield, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Northampton, Coventry, Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Taunton, Torquay, Truro, Plymouth
	June 1, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Carlisle, Lancaster, Blackpool, Blackburn, Preston, Wigan, Warrington, Manchester, Oldham, Stockport, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, Leeds, York, Doncaster, Sheffield, Hull, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Northampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Peterborough, Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Taunton, Dorchester, Torquay, Truro, Plymouth
	June 8, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kirkcaldy, Galashiels, Dumfries, Carlisle, Lancaster, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, York, Doncaster, Sheffield, Hull, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Northampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Milton Keynes, St Albans, Watford, Hemel Hempstead, Harrow, London N, London NW, London East, Romford, Enfield, Cambridge, Peterborough, Chelmsford, Colchester, Ipswich, Norwich, Oxford, Guildford, Redhill, Tonbridge, Canterbury, Medway, Southend, Sutton, Kingston upon Thames, Twickenham, Brighton
	June 15, 2026	Shetland, Kirkwall, Outer Hebrides, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kirkcaldy, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Kilmarnock, Galashiels, Dumfries, York, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Hull, Doncaster, Sheffield, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Norwich, Peterborough, Coventry, Northampton, Ipswich, Milton Keynes, Stevenage, Colchester, Chelmsford, Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Exeter, Dorchester, Torquay, Plymouth, Truro