

MOVING &amp; RENTING · GUIDE 06 · 2026

THE FLEXIBLE LIVING SERIES

Updated Sunday, 31 May 2026

# No-contract and 30-day rolling *broadband.*

Freedom to leave any month, with no long tie-in. A practical UK guide to no-contract broadband for renters: how 30-day rolling and 5G home plans work, what they cost, when the flexibility is worth a small premium, and how to choose without overpaying.

## 30 days

**NOTICE TO LEAVE, NO LONG TIE-IN***Cancel any month you like*

## £20 to £35

**TYPICAL 5G ROLLING MONTHLY  
COST***Three, EE and Vodafone*

## Minutes

**PLUG-IN 5G SETUP, NO ENGINEER***Online the day it arrives*

Written by **Dr Alex J. Martin-Smith**, Lead  
Editor

Reviewed by **Adrian James**, Sales Director

**Connect with the author on LinkedIn**

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EDITOR'S NOTE · 31 MAY 2026

## Flexibility, without the premium trap.

If you rent, move often, or are not sure how long you will stay, a 24-month broadband contract can feel like a straitjacket. The good news is that no-contract broadband has never been better. Between 30-day rolling fixed-line plans and plug-in 5G home broadband, you can have a fast, reliable connection with the freedom to walk away any month, often set up in minutes with no engineer at all.

This guide explains how no-contract broadband works, what it really costs, and the one trade-off to understand: rolling plans cost a little more per month in exchange for that freedom. We show you when the flexibility is worth it and when a short contract is the smarter buy, so you get the freedom you want without paying more than you need. Every figure is sourced, with the full list at the end.

*No-contract broadband is about buying freedom. The trick is knowing when that freedom is worth the small premium, and when it is not.*

**BROADBANDSWITCH.UK EDITORIAL TEAM**

### No-contract broadband, at a glance

**30 days****TYPICAL NOTICE TO LEAVE**

Cancel with about a month's notice, no long tie-in.

**£20 to £35****TYPICAL 5G ROLLING COST A MONTH**

Three, EE and Vodafone plug-in home broadband.

**97%****5G COVERAGE OF UK PREMISES**

Outdoor, from at least one operator (Ofcom, 2025). Your own provider's reach may be lower.

**30-day****MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE ON THREE 5G**

Test it at your address, refund if it disappoints.

**No engineer****5G PLANS PLUG IN AND GO**

Online within minutes of the router arriving.

**~18 months****THE ROUGH BREAK-EVEN POINT**

Stay longer and a contract usually wins on cost.

#### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

No-contract broadband is ideal when your plans are uncertain or short. The one thing to keep in mind is the cost trade-off: you pay a little more each month for the freedom to leave. If you know you will stay 18 months or more, a contract is usually cheaper, and this guide helps you judge which side of that line you are on.

## INSIDE THIS GUIDE

## What's covered.

Each section opens with a short Quick Answer so you can scan straight to what you need. When you want live prices for your address, a postcode check at [broadbandswitch.uk/compare](https://broadbandswitch.uk/compare) does the rest.

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## SECTION 01 · START HERE

## Is no-contract right for you?

### QUICK ANSWER

No-contract broadband is the right choice if you are renting short-term, expecting to move within the year, waiting for full fibre, or simply want to keep your options open. You leave with about 30 days' notice and pay a little more each month for that freedom. If you know you will stay 18 months or more, a short contract usually works out cheaper.

The decision really comes down to how certain your plans are. No-contract broadband trades a slightly higher monthly price for the freedom to leave whenever you like, which is a brilliant deal when your future is uncertain and a poor one when it is not.

- ✓ **Renting short-term.** A tenancy of a year or less suits a rolling plan that ends when you do.
- ✓ **Expecting to move.** If a move is on the horizon, the freedom to leave with a month's notice is worth a great deal.
- ✓ **Waiting for full fibre.** A rolling plan bridges the gap until a better fixed line arrives at your address.
- ✓ **Trying out an altnet or a new home.** Keep your options open while you see how a connection performs.
- ✓ **Wanting a quick, no-engineer setup.** Plug-in 5G home broadband is online within minutes of arriving.

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

If any of those describe you, no-contract broadband is likely the smart pick. If instead you are settled for a couple of years, read Section 05 first, because the small monthly premium adds up over a long stay.

## SECTION 02 · THE OPTIONS

## The two kinds of no-contract broadband.

### QUICK ANSWER

There are two main routes. The first is 5G or 4G home broadband, a plug-in router that uses the mobile network, with no engineer and no phone line. The second is a 30-day rolling fixed-line plan, which uses the same full-fibre or cable networks as contract deals but lets you leave monthly. Both give you flexibility; they suit different homes.

	5G or 4G home broadband	30-day rolling fixed-line
<b>How it connects</b>	Over the mobile network, via a plug-in router.	Over a fixed full-fibre or cable line.
<b>Setup</b>	Plug in and go, no engineer, minutes.	Self-install on an existing line, or an engineer for a new one.
<b>Typical speed</b>	100 to 300 Mbit/s where 5G is strong.	Whatever the fixed line offers, up to gigabit.
<b>Best for</b>	Short stays, quick setup, homes still waiting for fibre.	Renters who want full-fibre reliability without a long tie-in.
<b>Watch for</b>	Speed depends on local signal; test it early.	A higher monthly price than the equivalent long contract.

Both are genuinely no-contract in the sense that matters: you are not locked into 12 or 24 months, and you can leave with around 30 days' notice. The difference is simply the underlying technology, and which one fits your home and how long you plan to stay.

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

If you want the fastest possible setup or the home is not yet on fibre, lean towards 5G. If a good fixed line is already available and you value top reliability for video calls, a 30-day rolling fixed-line plan may suit you better. The next two sections look at each in turn.

## SECTION 03 · MOBILE HOME BROADBAND

## 5G and 4G home broadband, explained.

### QUICK ANSWER

5G and 4G home broadband use a plug-in router that connects over the mobile network, so there is no fixed line, no engineer and no drilling. Three, EE and Vodafone offer them on 30-day rolling terms for around £20 to £35 a month, typically delivering 100 to 300 Mbit/s where 5G is strong. Many come with a money-back guarantee so you can test it at your address.

This is the most flexible broadband you can buy. A small router arrives in the post, you plug it in, and it connects over the same 5G network your phone uses. Because outdoor 5G now reaches around 97% of UK premises from at least one operator, it works well in most areas, and there is nothing to install. Your own provider's reach may be lower, which is exactly why testing at your address matters.

### What to expect

- ✓ **Instant setup.** Plug the router in near a window and you are usually online within minutes, no engineer visit.
- ✓ **Rolling monthly terms.** Most are 30-day, so you can leave with a month's notice, ideal for short stays.
- ✓ **Unlimited data.** Home broadband plans typically come with unlimited data, unlike a phone SIM.
- ✓ **A safety net.** Some providers offer a money-back guarantee, for example Three's 30-day guarantee, so you can test performance risk-free, while others, such as Vodafone's current 5G Broadband, are simply cancellable on 30 days' notice.

### The one thing to check

Performance depends on the mobile signal at your specific address, which can vary even within a street. The simplest approach is to order a plan with a money-back guarantee, set it up, and run a speed test in the rooms you will actually use. If it performs, keep it; if not, return it within the guarantee window.

### JUST NEED A FEW DAYS?

For a very short bridge of a day or two, your phone's personal hotspot may be enough. For anything longer, a dedicated 5G router gives far better range and lets the whole household connect at once.

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

5G home broadband is the closest thing to instant, commitment-free internet. For renters and movers it is often the easiest answer, and the money-back guarantees mean you can try it at your address with nothing to lose.

## SECTION 04 · ROLLING FIXED-LINE

## 30-day rolling fixed-line plans.

### QUICK ANSWER

A 30-day rolling fixed-line plan gives you full-fibre or cable broadband over a proper fixed line, but with the freedom to leave each month. Crucially, you get the same speeds as a contract plan on the same network, with no speed penalty for being on a rolling deal. The trade-off is simply a higher monthly price than the equivalent long contract.

If a good fixed line is available at your address and you want top reliability, a 30-day rolling plan combines that with freedom. A handful of fixed-line providers and several altnets offer rolling terms, and because they use the same networks as contract deals, the connection itself is identical.

### Why choose rolling fixed-line over 5G

- ✓ **Top reliability.** A fixed line is the steadiest option for heavy video calls and working from home, unaffected by mobile signal.
- ✓ **Full speed range.** You can take anything from entry full fibre up to gigabit, the same as a contract customer.
- ✓ **No mobile-signal lottery.** Performance does not depend on the strength of the local mast.

### The trade-off to weigh

A rolling fixed-line plan usually costs more per month than the same plan on a 12 or 24-month contract, because you are paying for flexibility. If the line needs a fresh install, you may also wait for an engineer and need the landlord's permission for any work, exactly as with a contract plan.

### SISTER-SITE FAIRNESS CHECK

#### See which rolling options reach your address

Rolling fixed-line availability varies by street, especially across the smaller full-fibre networks. BroadbandMap.org.uk is a free, postcode-level UK coverage map showing which technologies, full fibre, part fibre, cable, 4G and 5G, reach your address, so you can see your no-contract options at a glance.

Part of the same SearchSwitchSave network as BroadbandSwitch.uk. Visit [broadbandmap.org.uk](https://broadbandmap.org.uk).

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

A 30-day rolling fixed-line plan is the best of both worlds when a good line is available: full-fibre reliability with monthly freedom. Just go in knowing you are paying a modest premium for that freedom, which Section 05 helps you weigh.

## SECTION 05 · THE MATHS

## The cost trade-off: rolling versus contract.

### QUICK ANSWER

Rolling plans cost more per month than long contracts, so the right choice depends on how long you will stay. As a rough rule, if you need broadband for less than about 12 to 15 months, a no-contract plan usually works out cheaper overall. If you will stay 18 months or more, a contract typically wins. Always compare the total cost over the months you actually need.

This is the heart of the decision, and it is simpler than it looks. A no-contract plan charges a premium each month; a contract is cheaper monthly but ties you in. The question is whether the months of freedom you gain are worth more than the premium you pay for them.

### How to do the sum

#### 1 Estimate how long you need it

Be honest about your plans. A nine-month let, a year before a likely move, or an open-ended stay all point to different answers.

#### 2 Add up the rolling plan over that time

Multiply the rolling monthly price by the months you expect to need it, including any setup cost.

#### 3 Compare with a contract, including any early exit

Work out the contract's total over the same period. If you would leave early, add any exit fee, then compare the two totals.

### THE RULE OF THUMB

Under roughly 12 to 15 months, rolling usually wins. Over about 18 months, a contract usually wins, even allowing for an early exit. Between the two, it is close, so let the freedom you value tip the balance.

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

Do not pay a flexibility premium you will not use. If you are genuinely short-term or uncertain, rolling is worth every penny. If you are quietly settled, a contract saves money. A two-minute sum tells you which camp you are in.

## SECTION 06 · THE RIGHT FIT

## Who should choose no-contract?

### QUICK ANSWER

No-contract broadband suits short-term renters, frequent movers, students in term-time lets, anyone waiting for full fibre, and people who simply value the freedom to leave. If that is you, the small monthly premium buys genuine peace of mind. If you are settled for a couple of years, a contract is usually the better-value choice.

If you are	Then
<b>Renting for a year or less</b>	No-contract fits neatly, ending when your tenancy does.
<b>Likely to move soon</b>	Rolling freedom means no exit fee and no service to drag along.
<b>A student in a term-time let</b>	Rolling, or a short fixed term, avoids paying over the summer.
<b>Waiting for full fibre</b>	A 5G or rolling plan bridges the gap until a better line arrives.
<b>Settled for 18 months or more</b>	A contract is usually cheaper; weigh the premium first.

### SISTER-SITE FAIRNESS CHECK

#### Right-size your speed before you choose

Whichever route you pick, match the speed to your home so you neither overpay nor struggle. RightSpeed.co.uk asks eight short questions about people, streaming, gaming, calls, uploads and cameras, then recommends the tier that genuinely fits, in plain English, in under a minute.

Authored by Dr Alex J. Martin-Smith. Free, no signup, no ads. Visit [rightspeak.co.uk](https://rightspeak.co.uk).

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

No-contract broadband is a tool for uncertainty. When your plans are open or short, it is exactly right. When they are settled, the honest answer is that a contract will usually save you money, and we would rather tell you that than sell you flexibility you will not use.

## SECTION 07 · SETUP AND EXIT

## How to set it up, and cancel cleanly.

### QUICK ANSWER

For 5G, order a plan with a money-back guarantee, plug in the router and test it in the rooms you use. For rolling fixed-line, check the address and order as normal. To cancel either, give the required notice, usually around 30 days, and return any borrowed router within the provider's window to avoid a non-return charge of roughly £30 to £50.

### Setting up

- ✓ **5G or 4G:** where a money-back guarantee is offered, such as Three's 30-day guarantee, place the router near a window and run a speed test once it is live; keep it if it performs, return it if not. Where a plan is simply rolling, like Vodafone's current 5G Broadband, you can cancel on 30 days' notice instead.
- ✓ **Rolling fixed-line:** check what reaches the address, compare by total cost, and order with an activation date that suits you. An existing line may mean a quick self-install.
- ✓ **Either way:** a new fixed-line install needs the landlord's permission for any drilling, while 5G needs none.

### Cancelling cleanly

- ✓ **Give notice in good time,** usually around 30 days, aimed at the date you want the service to end.
- ✓ **Return the router** in the prepaid packaging within the provider's window, often 30 to 60 days, to avoid a non-return charge.
- ✓ **Check the final bill** to confirm the service has stopped and no further charges are due.

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

The whole appeal of no-contract is a painless exit, so protect it: give notice on time and return the kit promptly. Do those two things and leaving is as easy as joining was.

## SECTION 08 · GET THE BEST

## Getting the best from a 5G connection.

### QUICK ANSWER

5G home broadband is sensitive to where you put the router. Place it high and near a window facing the nearest mast, test different spots, and add a mesh system for larger homes. For a marginal signal, an external antenna can transform performance. Always test in the rooms you actually use before the money-back window closes.

A little care with placement makes a big difference with mobile home broadband, because the router has to pick up the signal from outside.

### Simple ways to boost performance

- ✓ **Go high and near a window.** Upstairs, on a windowsill facing the nearest mast, usually beats a spot tucked away downstairs.
- ✓ **Try a few positions.** Specific corners of a home can be dramatically better; test and watch the signal indicator.
- ✓ **Add a mesh system.** The router's own Wi-Fi covers a typical home, but a mesh spreads it through a larger or older property.
- ✓ **Consider an external antenna.** For a marginal signal, an antenna mounted higher or outside can lift speeds noticeably.

### SISTER-SITE FAIRNESS CHECK

#### Test the signal where you actually use it

To find the best spot, test the connection in each room. UKSpeedTest.co.uk (branded Pulse) is a free, no-signup, ad-free test for download, upload and jitter, and HowFast.uk runs a quick line and performance check in the browser. Use them while your money-back guarantee still applies.

Built by the same SearchSwitchSave editorial team that publishes BroadbandSwitch.uk. Visit [ukspeedtest.co.uk](https://ukspeedtest.co.uk) and [howfast.uk](https://howfast.uk).

### SO WHAT? PLAIN ENGLISH FOR UK CONSUMERS

Most disappointing 5G setups are really just a poorly placed router. Spend ten minutes finding the best spot during the guarantee window, and a plug-in connection can comfortably rival a fixed line for everyday use.

## SECTION 09 · PITFALLS

## Five mistakes to avoid.

Steer around these and no-contract broadband delivers exactly the freedom you wanted.

- ⚠ **Paying for flexibility you will not use.** If you are settled for two years, the rolling premium adds up; a contract is usually cheaper.
- ⚠ **Not testing 5G at your address.** Signal varies street by street, so always use the money-back window to test in the rooms you use.
- ⚠ **Assuming rolling means slower.** A rolling fixed-line plan uses the same network and speeds as a contract; there is no speed penalty.
- ⚠ **Forgetting the notice period.** Even rolling plans usually need about 30 days' notice, so give it promptly to avoid an extra month.
- ⚠ **Missing the router return window.** Return borrowed kit on time, or face a non-return charge of around £30 to £50.

**Want flexible broadband? Compare your address in about ten seconds.**

Postcode in, real prices out. No name, no email, no phone number needed.

[broadbandswitch.uk/compare](https://broadbandswitch.uk/compare) →

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## SECTION 10 · FAQ

## Frequently asked questions.

### **What is no-contract broadband?**

It is broadband with no long minimum term, so you can cancel with about 30 days' notice. It comes in two main forms: plug-in 5G or 4G home broadband, and 30-day rolling fixed-line plans. Both give you the freedom to leave each month.

### **Is no-contract broadband more expensive?**

Usually a little more per month than the same plan on a long contract, because you are paying for flexibility. If you will need it for less than about 12 to 15 months, that premium is often still cheaper overall than a contract you leave early.

### **Is rolling broadband slower than a contract?**

No. A 30-day rolling fixed-line plan uses the same network and offers the same speeds as the equivalent contract plan; the only difference is the contract length and price.

### **How good is 5G home broadband?**

In areas with strong 5G it is genuinely good, typically 100 to 300 Mbit/s, and it sets up in minutes with no engineer. Performance depends on local signal, so order a plan with a money-back guarantee and test it at your address.

### **Do I need an engineer or a phone line?**

Not for 5G or 4G home broadband, which plug in and need no fixed line or drilling. A new rolling fixed-line connection may need an engineer and the landlord's permission for any work, just like a contract plan.

### **Can I get no-contract broadband without a credit check?**

Many 5G and 4G plans are available with only a debit card and no lengthy commitment, which makes them straightforward for short stays. Terms vary by provider, so check before ordering.

### **How do I cancel a no-contract plan?**

Give the required notice, usually around 30 days, and return any borrowed router within the provider's window to avoid a non-return charge of roughly £30 to £50. Then check the final bill to confirm the service has ended.

### **When should I choose a contract instead?**

When you are confident you will stay 18 months or more. Over that horizon a contract is usually cheaper, even allowing for an early exit, so the flexibility premium is not worth paying.

## Got your answer? Now find your deal.

Live UK comparison. Postcode in, deals out. The average switcher saves £180 to £292 a year.

[broadbandswitch.uk/compare](https://broadbandswitch.uk/compare) →

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**SECTION 11 · STANDARDS**

## **Editorial standards.**

This guide is part of the Moving & Renting Broadband series from BroadbandSwitch.uk, the UK's independent consumer broadband resource.

### **How we work**

- ✓ We name the author and reviewer on every dated guide.
- ✓ We rank every deal in our comparison tool by total contract cost, never by paid placement.
- ✓ We earn a commission when readers switch through our journey; this never changes which deals we show or their order.
- ✓ We publish a public corrections log; any factual error is logged, dated and credited.
- ✓ We see the best in every provider in the British market and frame changes as positive consumer outcomes wherever we honestly can.

### **Ownership and sister sites**

BroadbandSwitch.uk is part of the SearchSwitchSave Group's FBRE.uk network of UK broadband sites. One editorial team, one set of standards, one goal: helping Great Britain get online with confidence.

- **RightSpeed.co.uk** is an eight-question speed-needs calculator that right-sizes your plan before you overspend.
- **UKSpeedTest.co.uk** (branded Pulse) is a free, no-signup, ad-free speed test for download, upload and jitter.
- **HowFast.uk** is a quick browser-based line and performance check.
- **BroadbandMap.org.uk** is a postcode-level coverage map of full fibre, part fibre, cable, 4G and 5G.
- **ParentalControl.uk** is a free home-network and online-safety tool, useful when families set up a new home.

### **About the author**

**WRITTEN BY A REAL PERSON****Dr Alex J. Martin-Smith**

Founder & Lead Editor, BroadbandSwitch.uk



Alex founded and leads BroadbandSwitch.uk and writes on UK broadband regulation, full-fibre rollout and consumer policy across the FBRE.uk network, including RightSpeed.co.uk and UKSpeedTest.co.uk.

**Connect on LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/in/alexmartinsmith](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexmartinsmith)

Got a question this guide did not answer? Reach out on LinkedIn and a real member of our team will be glad to help.

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