Irish Rural Link   
21st November 2017  
  
**Irish Rural Link Not Surprised Ireland is one of the most expensive developed country for Broadband**

Irish Rural Link – the national network representing the interest of rural communities is not surprised by the results of a report on Broadband Prices, which shows Ireland is the sixth dearest developed country for Broadband.

The report by a British research firm and highlighted in today’s Irish Times, shows the average monthly broadband bill for Irish customers is €60. Irish Rural Link is aware of people in rural areas, paying these high costs.

Access to high speed broadband continues to be a barrier for many households and business in rural areas. The report also found that there are in excess of 800,000 premises still in need of high speed broadband.

With the bid for the roll out of the National Broadband Plan now reduced to two providers, Irish Rural Link are concerned that Broadband bills will remain high for many households, SME’s and Microenterprises. IRL are concerned that disadvantaged and marginalised communities in rural areas will continue to be excluded as a result of these high charges for Broadband. It can be difficult for people in rural areas to pay these high prices especially when quality is still very poor.

IRL call on Government to examine these high charges as they are hindering on development in rural areas, job creation and preventing people from getting online.

-Ends-   
  
For further information, please contact (anytime):   
Seamus Boland (Chief Executive) 086 2491153 or Louise Lennon (Policy and Communications Officer) 086 1069244

About Irish Rural Link:   
Irish Rural Link represents the interests of locally based rural groups in disadvantaged and marginalised rural areas by highlighting problems, advocating appropriate policies, sharing experiences and examples of good practice. It has a membership of over 600 rural community groups dedicated to sustainable rural development and represents rural communities at a national and international level.