

**NEED TO KNOW**

**2G & 3G  
SWITCH OFF**



## NEED TO KNOW

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?



In 2021, the government made an agreement with mobile network operators Vodafone, EE, O2 and Three that 3G and 2G mobile services will be phased out by 2033. However, the providers are free to choose when they end 3G and 2G services, within this timeframe.

- Vodafone started closing 3G services in February 2023 and intends to have their entire 3G network switched off by December 2023, but has no current plans to close 2G before the 2033 deadline.
- EE will also phase out 3G services throughout 2023, with the network then closing in early 2024, and 2G services will be switched off 'later in the decade'.



## NEED TO KNOW

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?



- Three expects to have closed its 3G offering by the end of 2024. Three never had a 2G network as it launched as the UK's first 100% 3G network.
- O2 have confirmed that they will not begin switching off their 3G network until 2025. An exact date will be confirmed nearer the time.



## NEED TO KNOW

# 2G NETWORK

### What is 2G?

2G stands for 'second generation', as it's the second type of mobile phone technology. The first commercial 2G networks were introduced in 1991.

2G introduced data services for mobile, starting with SMS messages. It also meant that digitally-encrypted phone conversations were possible.

As part of the government agreements with the mobile networks all 2G networks across the UK will be closed by 2033.



## NEED TO KNOW

# 3G NETWORK

### What is 3G?

3G stands for 'third generation', as it's the third type of mobile phone technology. The first commercial 3G networks were introduced in mid-2001.

3G offers speeds high enough to allow for audio and video streaming, though it takes far longer to download songs and movies on a device using 3G.

As part of the government agreements with the mobile networks all 3G networks across the UK will be closed by 2033.



## NEED TO KNOW

# ROAMING

### Before roaming

Ensure that voicemail is enabled before you leave, if this isn't enabled you won't be able to recover your messages.

### Roaming in the EU

People tend to have 4G and Wi-Fi calls enabled. This can cause issues with calls as the device will be constantly searching for Wi-Fi to connect to and can interrupt calls. Therefore, we would advise that Wi-Fi calling is disabled whilst roaming.



## NEED TO KNOW

# WHAT TO DO

What does this mean for businesses?

Nothing will need to change provided your business devices supports 4G services. However, some older devices will no longer be able to connect to a network to use data, so you will need to consider upgrading your team's devices.

If you have any questions regarding the 2G & 3G switch off or the impact it may have on your teams devices, speak to our friendly team on [01242 246 700](tel:01242246700).

