



Sunderland's Commitment to Safe and Friendly WiFi

Background

Sunderland has made significant strides in becoming a digitally advanced city. As part of their Smart City initiative, Sunderland introduced extensive free public WiFi. The city's ambition was not just to provide connectivity but to ensure that it was safe for all users, leading to Sunderland becoming a Friendly WiFi certified city.

The Initiative

Sunderland's digital transformation included a comprehensive plan to expand free public WiFi across the city. This effort aimed to enhance connectivity for residents, workers, and visitors. However, the city recognised that providing WiFi alone was not enough. Ensuring the online safety of users was paramount.

Friendly WiFi Certification

To achieve this, Sunderland adopted the Friendly WiFi certification. This certification shows that the public WiFi adheres to recommended online safety standards, filtering inappropriate content and ensuring a safe online environment. The certification process involved checks and validations to meet the criteria set by the Friendly WiFi initiative.

Importance of Certification

For Sunderland, obtaining the Friendly WiFi certification was a crucial step. It not only demonstrated their commitment to digital safety but also provided peace of mind to all WiFi users. Displaying the certification prominently assured residents and visitors that the city's WiFi network was safe.

Impact

Since becoming a Friendly WiFi city, Sunderland has seen numerous benefits:

• Enhanced Public Trust: Residents and visitors feel safer online using the city's WiFi services.



- Digital Inclusivity: Safe WiFi access promotes greater digital engagement and inclusivity.
- **Smart City Goals:** Aligning with Sunderland's broader Smart City goals, safe WiFi is a cornerstone of their digital infrastructure.

Conclusion

Sunderland's journey to becoming a Friendly WiFi city underscores the importance of not just meeting but exceeding digital safety standards. By achieving and displaying the Friendly WiFi certification, Sunderland sets a benchmark for other cities, showcasing their dedication to providing a safe and user-friendly digital environment for everyone.

Learn More

For more details on Sunderland's digital initiatives and Friendly WiFi certification, visit their <u>Smart City page</u> and <u>WiFi information page</u>.

