

Newport's Friendly WiFi Certification

Background

Newport, a vibrant city in Wales, recognised the importance of providing safe and filtered internet access to its residents and visitors. With the increasing use of public WiFi, especially by children and young people, the city council decided to take a proactive approach to ensure a safe online environment.

The Friendly WiFi Certification

Friendly WiFi is a government-initiated certification standard for public WiFi. It ensures that WiFi services meet minimum filtering standards, particularly in areas where children are present. The certification is available across various sectors, including retail, hospitality, and transport.

Newport's Approach

- **Commitment to Safety:** Newport City Council understood the significance of creating a family-friendly digital space. They committed to providing filtered WiFi to block inappropriate content.
- **Annual Certification Process:** Newport voluntarily complete the Friendly WiFi certification process each year. This demonstrates their ongoing commitment to safety and accountability.
- **User-Friendly Access:** Users could log in via social media or a simple registration form. Once initially logged in, seamless access allowed users to reconnect by opening their browser when within the network range.

Results

- **Enhanced Reputation:** Newport gained a reputation as a digitally responsible city, prioritising the safety of its residents and visitors.
- **Increased Usage:** The availability of Friendly WiFi encouraged more people to use public WiFi confidently.
- **Community Trust:** The certification process reinforced community trust in Newport's commitment to online safety.

Conclusion

Newport's proactive approach to becoming Friendly WiFi certified showcases their dedication to creating a secure digital environment. By annually renewing their certification, they continue to prioritize the well-being of their citizens and visitors.

