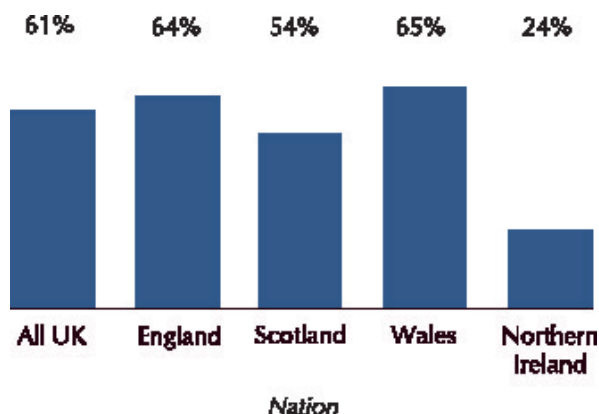


Figure A1b: Mean percentage of computers in UK primary schools with internet access



Source: "The Use of ICT in Schools, A Qualitative and Quantitative Survey of Teachers, Pupils, LEAs and Parents", Research Study Conducted for BBC Children's Education, MORI Social Research, June 2001.

- 14 The penetration of LANs in secondary schools is quite high (9 out of 10 computers used for teaching and learning are connected). The penetration in primary schools is generally lower than in secondary schools although this differential is expected to narrow in the next few years<sup>8</sup>. We understand that the general picture is the same throughout the UK, with the exception of Northern Ireland where progress has been slower.
- 15 Without the appropriate technology in homes (and other informal learning environments) to support interactive digital learning resources, the commercial opportunities for potential suppliers will be limited. According to a survey undertaken by the NGfL<sup>9</sup>, 98% of young people used a computer either at home or at school. However, the level of internet connections in the home is lower than at schools. Initial findings from ImpaCT2<sup>10</sup> suggest that just 48% of primary school pupils and 64% of secondary school pupils have a connection to the internet at home.
- 16 The usage of different types of ICT equipment such as digital television and mobile phones for connecting to the internet at home is much lower than the PC. According to a NOP survey in 2001, just 9% of UK children between the ages of 7 and 16 with online access used a digital television to surf the internet, while just 3% of these 'online children' used a WAP phone for the same purpose. The benefits of internet access via devices other than a PC have yet to be fully realised.

## Rollout of broadband

- 17 The rollout of broadband in the UK has been quite slow relative to other countries. The UK was recently ranked twenty-second in terms of the uptake of broadband among developed nations.
- 18 The DfES has stated that all secondary schools in England will have a 2-megabit broadband connection by the end of the current school year. However, it is noteworthy that a much lower percentage (approximately 20%) of primary schools will be in a similar situation and that even with a 2-megabit connection, simultaneous usage of the internet by multiple computers will still be restricted.
- 19 The rollout of broadband has been slow throughout much of the UK. According to a recent report by the e-Envoy<sup>11</sup>, broadband rollout in the UK has continued over the past year such that 60-65% of the population is now covered by an affordable broadband technology. However only 1% of households had rented a broadband line as of September 2001.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 7.

<sup>9</sup> "Young People and ICT", NGfL Research and Evaluation Series.

<sup>10</sup> ImpaCT2 is part of the overall evaluation of the NGfL programme. It is a study for the period 1999-2002, covering 60 schools and over 2000 pupils in England.

<sup>11</sup> "Broadband Strategy, UK Online", Office of the e-Envoy, December 2001.

## Level of teacher training and confidence in ICT

20 In its response to the Curriculum Online consultation paper, the GTC noted that:

*“there is an urgent need to go beyond the limited New Opportunities Fund model of core skills training to enable teachers to engage in innovation in their individual practice, using advanced technologies”.*

21 For educational software resources to be used effectively in schools, teachers must have a high level of confidence and training in ICT. Only 9% of primary schools and 15% of secondary schools are currently making use of advanced online learning systems<sup>12</sup>. These figures are broadly consistent across the nations.

22 However, the training offered through the New Opportunities Fund has improved the confidence of teachers in the use of ICT. The DfES<sup>13</sup> recently reported that approximately 73% of teachers in UK schools feel confident to use ICT within the curriculum, up from 67% in 1999.

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 7.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 5.