

Let's Get Online comes to Edinburgh

A national roadshow giving people free advice and help with using the internet is coming to Edinburgh tomorrow and later this week.



Picture by Christian Cooksey/CookseyPix.com

With almost 17% of people in Scotland missing out on the benefits of being online, the Scottish Government's Let's Get Online campaign is set to help people across Scotland get online with a nationwide roadshow.

From keeping in touch with friends and family and searching for jobs, to managing bills and watching catch-up TV, the campaign aims to highlight the benefits the internet can provide.

The Let's Get Online team will visit towns and cities across Scotland from 31 May until 22 July offering free, informal, one-to-one, drop-in sessions on how to get online.

The free drop-in sessions will take place in Edinburgh on the following dates, times and locations:

- Remploy, 22-24 Earl Grey Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9BN on 8 and 9 June from 10am to 4pm
- Lidl Leith, Newkirkgate Shopping Centre, 35 Newkirkgate, Edinburgh, EH6 6AA on 10 June from 10am to 5pm

Trained and friendly staff will host over 100 sessions at a variety of locations ranging from supermarkets and job centres to local community hubs and shopping centres. The team will help people experience the benefits of being online first hand by providing people with one-to-one support for a variety of online activities such as how to search for jobs, set up an

email address, tips for safe internet shopping and banking and how to video call friends and family.

Jeane Freeman, Minister for Social Security and Older People, said: "One in six of people in Scotland are missing out on the benefits of being online and we want to change that. We are committed to helping reduce social isolation amongst all age groups – being online can help reduce this risk while providing a better quality of life and improve education, health, wealth and well-being.

"We want to give people the support and knowledge they need to have the confidence to get online. These free sessions are taking place throughout Scotland and will provide vital advice to help those who are not online to make the first steps."

TV presenter Carol Smillie, an ambassador for the Let's Get Online campaign, said: "It's not long ago that I struggled with emailing and now I'm able to edit my own family movie clips. My son helps me out with the tricky stuff but I've spent some time getting up to speed with the online world and now I think I'm pretty good. It just goes to show that it is never too late to have a go and get involved – don't be afraid it's easier than you think."

"Social media is really important for my business and I think the internet is great for keeping in touch with family and friends. I think it is important for those not online to take the first step and the Let's Get Online free informal sessions are a great place to start. Whether you want to learn how you can keep in touch with friends and family, search for a job, manage your bills and banking, or watch catch-up TV, there's so much you can do online to make your life a little easier and more fun."

The Let's Get Online roadshow is supported by an information line which people can call on 0300 004 1000 to find out where and when their nearest session is, as well as information

about other learning centres and courses in their local area. Those online who know friends or family that would benefit from information about how to get online, should visit www.letsgetonline.scot.