

BT Group Belfast Connectivity transcript

Paul Murnaghan

Network slicing allows us to proportion part of our 5G standalone network and to segment components of that to deliver dedicated bandwidth for customers.

Bernard Lavery

BT offering network slice has been absolutely huge.

80% of our sales are now through the credit card machines, and so to have that fast connectivity is absolutely critical to fast service. It is seamlessly working in the background.

I've always had the philosophy, if you're standing still, you're actually going backwards. My name is Bernard Lavery, I'm the owner of lavery's bar in Belfast. My great-grandfather bought the bar in 1918, one month after World War One ended. The bar has been in our family ever since.

The old traditional bar where we started is still there in the ground floor, public bar and back bar, and then we've got the first-floor bar, where we do a lot of live entertainment, and then up into the second-floor bar here, where we have 22 pool tables, a couple of karaoke rooms that we've just opened up. And the last little bar we have is called the Woodworkers bar, which does lots of craft beers, cocktails. So it's a nice mix under the one roof.

We were invited to do the Christmas market 20 years ago. I think we've got over 100 stalls down at the Christmas market now, and the beer tent that we have is quite a substantial one. We'd maybe get 250 - 300 people in the beer tent whenever it's pretty busy.

In order to give that fast service, which we pride ourselves on in the pubs, we want to try and do that at the Christmas market as well. I think we had 1.2 million people last year through the gates of the Christmas market.

Dominic Lavery

Having superfast connectivity is really important for us in a really busy bar. Make sure that we can serve at a very quick rate and our customers are happy as well, because they're getting served quickly too.

Bernard Lavery

So, BT approached us this year to help us with our connection at the at the Christmas market, and it has been phenomenal, I have to say. It's very, very quick. Thankfully, our eight credit card terminals have been whizzing through the transactions, and there are no holdups.

Paul Murnaghan

What we've done here during the Christmas market is really transformational, on behalf of BT. This is the first time ever where we are taking a public 5G network and we are slicing that. It's going to deliver secure, resilient connectivity for customers such as Bernard and libraries bar here, to allow for them to be able to deliver their point-of-sale solutions in a way that they've never been able to before. There'll be no buffering. There'll be no contention.

Bernard Lavery

As a business owner, it's absolutely key, knowing that your hardware, so to speak, is doing exactly what you need it to do.

Paul Murnaghan

Simply put, for me, our customers, and particularly our customers in the commercial world have a level of confidence that they'll be able to trade with their customers in a way that they wouldn't have had that confidence before

In so doing, then they can plan more effectively and they can deliver better outcomes for those customers.

Bernard Lavery

Working with the guys at BT has been really, really easy. They've been very, very friendly. Because we have that fast internet connection, this stuff's a game changer. That's been fantastic for us.