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Press release

digitaluk

SCOTLAND IS A DIGITAL NATION

Last analogue TV switched off after 59 years

Scotland officially becomes a fully digital nation today, as the last analogue TV signals in the central belt are switched off for good, and free digital TV extended to reach around 98.5% of households.

Analogue channels have now been turned off at all transmitters, and Scotland's switchover will be completed this afternoon at the Kirkfieldbank transmitter near Lanark, where the last digital signals are turned on.

Today's switchover is the culmination of a three-year engineering project that has delivered more choice and improved picture quality to hundreds of thousands of viewers across Scotland.

To mark the end of analogue TV after 59 years on air in Scotland, legendary presenters **Mary Marquis (BBC) and Glen Michael (STV)** were invited to witness the completion of switchover at Kirkfieldbank today – the last transmitter in Scotland to be switched to digital.

The switchover affects Freeview viewers across central Scotland who may find some of their channels missing this morning. These services have moved to new frequencies and can be restored by retuning Freeview TVs and boxes.¹

The Switchover Help Scheme remains open to applications – from older and disabled viewers who may qualify for help – until 22 July.²

Paul Hughes, Digital UK National Manager for Scotland, said: "This is great news for Scotland - now that switchover is complete, digital TV coverage has been boosted to reach an extra one million viewers, and Scotland has a broadcasting system fit for the 21st century.

"We will continue to offer support and advice to anyone who still needs it, and there's still time for eligible viewers to apply to the Switchover Help Scheme."

There are nine local advice points³ running across the central belt today, as well as switchover roadshows in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling.

- ends; notes follow -

Notes to editors

1. Retuning and regional services

How to retune your Freeview, Top-Up TV or BT Vision equipment:

- Make sure your Freeview TV or box is on and in digital mode. Press 'menu' on your remote control.
- Select 'set up' or 'installation'. If you see picture icons, select the tool box, satellite dish or spanner.
- If you are prompted for a code, try 0000 or 1234.
- Select the full re-tune option. This is sometimes called 'first time installation', 'factory reset', 'default settings' or 'shipping conditions'. Do not select 'channel update' or 'add channels'.
- Press 'OK' if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels, don't worry this is normal.
- Channels will automatically be installed. This may take a few minutes and your equipment may shut down and restart.

These instructions are a guide only – each product works slightly differently. For more information on retuning visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning.

Regional services: As with analogue terrestrial TV, Freeview signals will overlap in some areas, enabling viewers to receive two or more regional variants of BBC and STV channels. Most Freeview equipment will automatically load all versions, placing one at the top of the channel list and any additional channels in the 800s. Viewers can prioritise their preferred regional services by completing a 'manual retune'. Alternatively, they can be made easier to find by using the 'favourites' feature on their digital TV or box. Advice on retuning is available at digitaluk.co.uk/retuning or by ringing 08456 50 50 50.

2. **Switchover Help Scheme:** People aged 75 and over, eligible for certain disability benefits, registered blind or partially sighted or living in care homes are entitled to practical help from the BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme. For £40, they will be given equipment to switch one TV per household to digital. They will be able to have that equipment installed if they want it, a demonstration of how it works and a number to call while they get used to things. If they're eligible and also on income-related benefits, the help will be free. More information is available on 0800 40 85 900 and online at helpscheme.co.uk.
3. **Advice points** are at Alloa, Bathgate, Haddington, Kirkintilloch, Lanark, Largs, Falkirk, Paisley and Rothesay.

Digital TV switchover is the process of converting the UK's terrestrial television system to digital. Between now and 2012, analogue channels will be switched off region by region and replaced with free-to-air digital TV and radio services (Freeview). Switchover will extend Freeview coverage virtually to the whole of the UK and free up airwaves for new services such as ultra-fast wireless broadband and mobile television. Digital services are also available via broadband, cable and satellite.

Digital UK is the independent, not-for-profit organisation established in 2005 to lead the implementation of digital switchover. It is jointly owned and funded by the public-service broadcasters (BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and S4C), and the digital multiplex operators.

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC under an agreement with the Government to help older and disabled people make the change to digital TV. More information is available from helpscheme.co.uk.

Images are available to media free of charge at digitaluk.co.uk/press

Follow us on Twitter for live updates on switchover: twitter.com/DigitalUK

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