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Press release



STAGE ONE OF SWITCHOVER COMPLETE

All of Scottish Borders has a digital signal for the first time

The first stage of digital TV switchover was completed in Scottish Borders today at 1005 and the technical process ran smoothly, Digital UK has confirmed.

Analogue BBC Two has been permanently turned off, and the full range of BBC channels is now being broadcast in digital from every TV transmitter in Scottish Borders. Previously, only the main Selkirk transmitter broadcast these digital channels to the area. Freeview viewers should now retune their boxes.

The remaining analogue TV services (BBC One, ITV1, Channel 4 and Five) will be permanently turned off when the switchover process is completed on 20 November. On this date, further Freeview channels from ITV, Channel 4 and Five will also become available from relay transmitters for the first time. Virtually all households in Scottish Borders will then be able to receive a Freeview signal.

Digital UK, the body in charge of switchover, continues to provide support through local advice points (see notes), as well as its website (digitaluk.co.uk) and helpline (08456 50 50 50). A switchover roadshow is also running today in Galashiels.

John Askew, Border Regional Manager for Digital UK, said this morning: "Scottish Borders switchover is now fully underway, and many people are receiving Freeview channels for the first time.

"We're now encouraging viewers who still don't have the necessary equipment to get ready in time for 20 November, when all the analogue channels will be permanently switched off. Anyone who needs advice during this period should contact Digital UK on 08456 50 50 50."

- ends; notes follow -

Notes to editors:

Innerleithen

For viewers of the Innerleithen transmitter only, analogue ITV1 today moves to where BBC Two used to be on the remote control (for most viewers, button 2). On 20 November, analogue ITV1 will be permanently turned off, along with all other remaining analogue services.

Freeview channels

After switchover, virtually all UK households will receive approximately 20 of the most watched Freeview channels and text services. These will include the public service channels BBC One, BBC Two, ITV1, Channel 4 and Five, plus associated digital channels such as ITV2, E4 and BBC Three. Households that receive their television signal from a main transmitter will receive 48 channels. These will include Freeview channels plus optional subscription services such as Top Up TV and Setanta Sport. Viewers can use the postcode checker at digitaluk.co.uk to check which channels are available in their area.

Advice points

Switchover advice points are running at the following locations until 7 November, and again on 19-21 November, from 11am to 6pm:

Duns: Southfield Community Centre, Station Road

Eyemouth: BAVS Charity Shop, 1 North Street

Galashiels: Borders Disability Forum, Roxburgh House Court, Roxburgh Street

Hawick: Evergreen Hall, Dovecote Street

Jedburgh: St John's Old School, The Pleasance

Kelso: Tait Hall, Edenside Road

Peebles: The Bridge, Volunteer Resource Centre, Newby Court, School Brae, High Street

Digital television 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 to the whole of the UK and free up airwaves for new services such as ultra-fast wireless broadband and mobile television.

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, Five, S4C and Teletext), 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. Every eligible person will be offered practical help to convert one of their TV sets to digital in the run-up to switchover in each region. People are eligible if they are aged 75 years or more, have lived in a care home for six months or more, get (or could get) certain disability benefits, or are registered blind or partially sighted. Most people will be asked to contribute £40 towards the help but for those on certain income-related benefits, it's free.

Images and video clips are available to media free of charge from vismedia.co.uk

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digitaluk.co.uk/press