



# Northern Ireland switches to digital in October 2012

Your guide to the digital TV switchover



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Providing independent advice.

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# What is the digital TV switchover?

TV across the UK and the rest of the world is going digital. The existing analogue TV signal will be switched off and replaced with a new, stronger digital TV signal.

## Why is it happening?

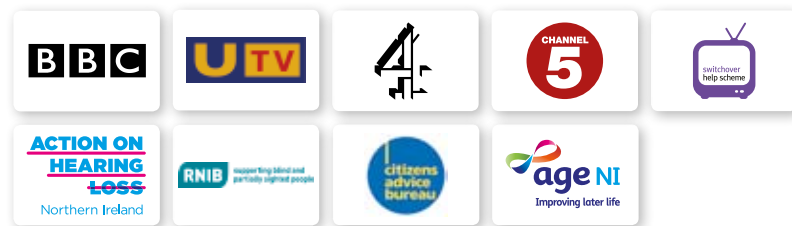
Switchover is happening so that Freeview services (digital TV through an aerial) can be extended to people who can't currently get them, including those who receive their signal from a relay transmitter.

It also allows new services, such as High Definition (HD) channels, to become available more widely.

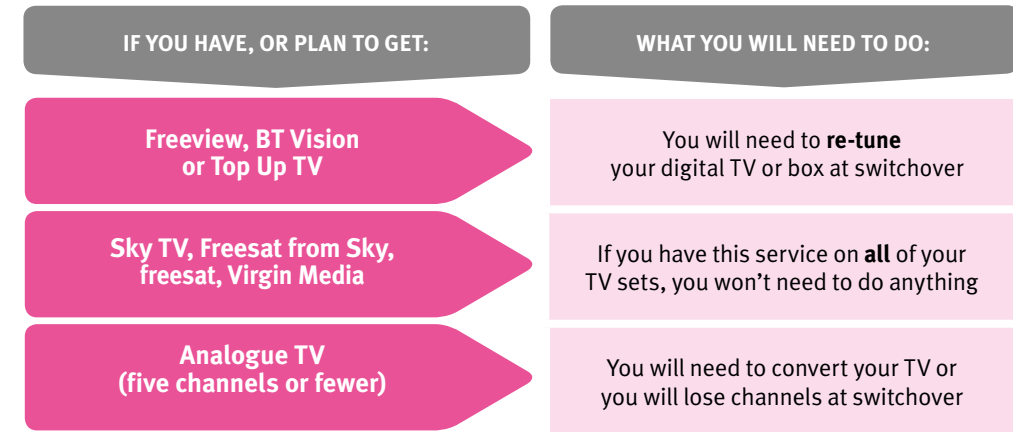
## Where can I get impartial advice?

Just contact us at Digital UK. We are the **not-for-profit** organisation responsible for leading the digital TV switchover.

We are not working alone. Our partners are:



# What do I need to do next?



## What is the Switchover Help Scheme?

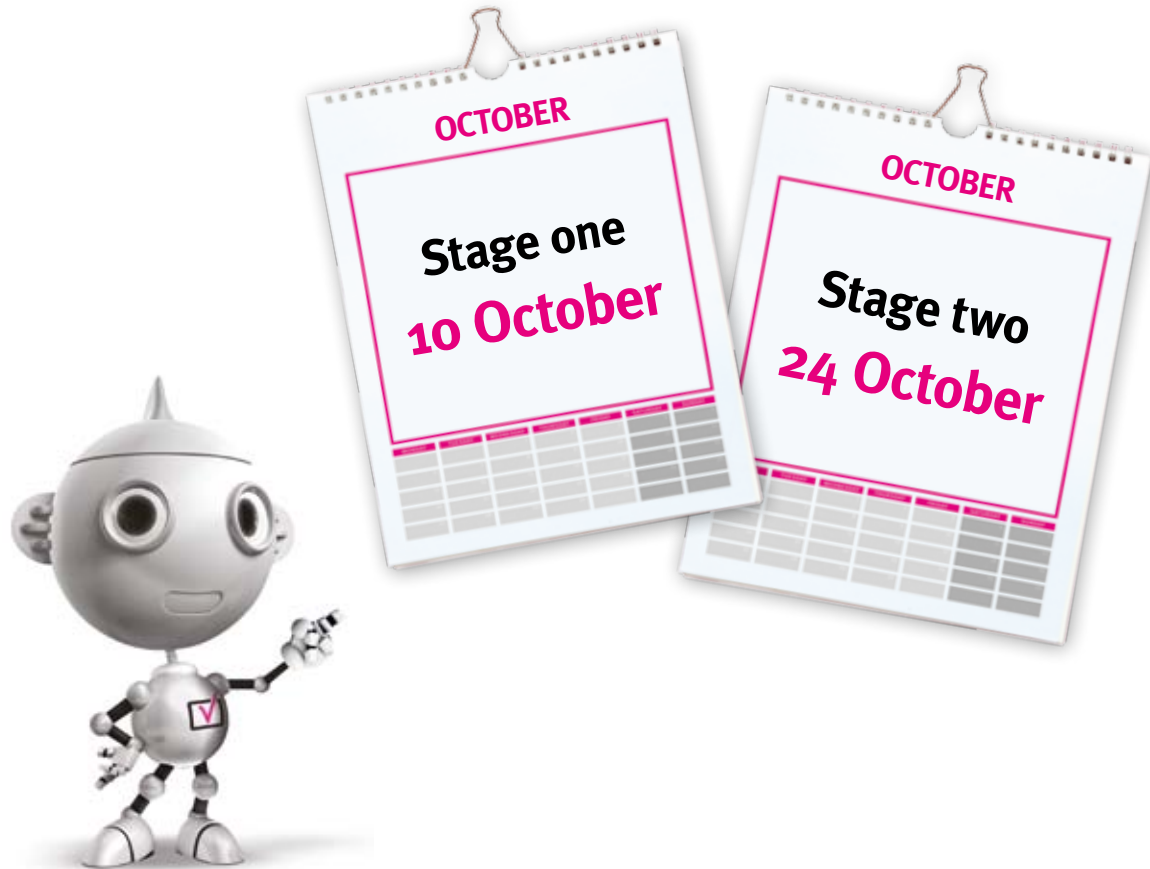
The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the **BBC**, under an agreement with the Government to help older and disabled people make the switch to digital TV.

For further information, see page 10.



## When do I switch?

All TV transmitters in Northern Ireland will switch to digital TV in two stages on 10 October and 24 October.



**Please note:** the switch happens in two stages to give people the chance to check their equipment.

## Transmitter groups in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is served by three transmitter groups, each made up of the main transmitter and its local relays.



To check which transmitter group you are likely to get your signal from, and to find out your digital options, go to our predictive postcode checker<sup>†</sup> at [digitaluk.co.uk](http://digitaluk.co.uk) or call us on **08456 50 50 50\***.








<sup>†</sup>This is a predictive coverage database and should be used as a guide only. \*Calls are free for BT customers within inclusive calling plans. Call charges from other providers may vary. The standard business hours for Digital UK's contact centre are 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on a Saturday. Sunday closed. Opening hours will be extended during switchover in each area. Digital UK, PO Box 26833, Kirkcaldy, KY2 9AG.

# What are my options?



**ONE-OFF  
PAYMENT**

**MONTHLY  
SUBSCRIPTION**

PROVIDER	COST <sup>1</sup>	CHANNELS	CONTACT DETAILS
	Digital boxes from around £20 <sup>2</sup> . Digital TVs from around £150. Self-installation.	Number of channels will vary depending on where you live. See page 7.	<a href="http://www.freeview.co.uk">www.freeview.co.uk</a>
	Digital boxes from £30. Digital TVs from around £450. Satellite dish installation (if required) from £80.	Over 120 TV channels, plus BBC iPlayer <sup>4</sup> .	08453 130 053 <a href="http://www.freesat.co.uk">www.freesat.co.uk</a>
	£175 including mini-dish, viewing card, standard Sky box and installation.	More than 240 TV channels.	08442 410 595 <a href="http://www.freesatfromsky.co.uk">www.freesatfromsky.co.uk</a>
	From £19.50 – £52 a month. Standard installation from £30.	Up to 160 subscription TV channels plus more than 240 free-to-air channels.	08442 410 285 <a href="http://www.sky.com">www.sky.com</a>
	From £4 – £12.50 a month <sup>2</sup> . BT Broadband required from £7.50 a month <sup>3</sup> . Self-installation.	As Freeview, plus Sky Sports 1, Sky Sports 2, ESPN and on-demand programmes.	08006 781 984 <a href="http://www.bt.com/vision">www.bt.com/vision</a>
	Top Up TV recorder from £79.99 <sup>2</sup> . Packages from £7 – £54.98 a month. Self-installation.	As Freeview, plus Sky Sports 1, Sky Sports 2, ESPN, GOLD Plus and on-demand TV and films.	08442 125 050 <a href="http://www.topuptv.com">www.topuptv.com</a>
	From £6.50 – £24.50 a month including a V HD box. Virgin phone line required (£13.90 a month). Installation £40.	Up to 160 channels, plus on-demand TV, films and music.	0800 052 2525 <a href="http://www.virginmedia.com">www.virginmedia.com</a>

The options above are the service providers in Northern Ireland however not all services are available in all areas.

For full terms and conditions and to check availability in your area, please contact each supplier directly.

<sup>1</sup> Costs are correct at time of printing, November 2011. Cost details are standard pricing, other offers or packages may be available.

<sup>2</sup> Aerial upgrade may be required.

<sup>3</sup> Minimum guaranteed line speed required.

<sup>4</sup> Broadband required to get BBC iPlayer.

# What channels and services will I get?

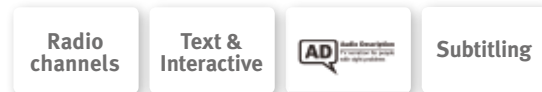
With digital TV, you can enjoy the five main UK TV channels, plus lots more. If you choose a Freeview service, the number of channels you receive will depend on where you live and the kind of TV equipment you have. Most households will be able to receive 15 channels via an aerial. In some areas around 40 channels will be available.

The UK and Ireland Governments have confirmed that they will ensure that TG4 will be made available on Freeview to much of Northern Ireland, and will also facilitate the provision of RTÉ 1 and RTÉ 2.

All homes will receive the following channels as standard:

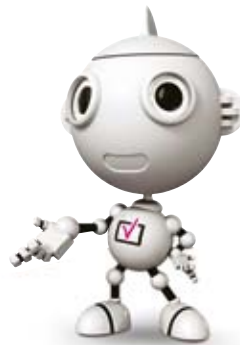


Plus:



Channels are subject to change.

If you'd like a greater choice of channels, you should consider freesat or Freesat from Sky, or subscribe to a service like Sky TV, Virgin Media, BT Vision or Top Up TV.



# Your questions answered

## Do I need to get a new TV?

No, you don't need to get a new TV as almost any TV can be converted, even a black and white one. Most digital boxes connect to a TV using a SCART cable. If your TV doesn't have a SCART socket, you will need to ask for a digital box with a built-in 'RF modulator'.

## What should I look for if I decide to get new equipment?

Look for TV sets, digital boxes and digital TV recorders that carry the 'digital tick' logo. It means they are designed to continue working after the switchover.

The logo looks like this:



## Will my video or DVD recorder still work?

After switchover, if your VCR or DVD recorder is not digital, it will not be able to record one channel while you watch another. Only a digital TV recorder will allow you to do this. A digital TV recorder will also convert your TV to digital.

## Will I need a new aerial?

If you have good analogue reception now, you are unlikely to need to replace your aerial for switchover. If you currently have poor analogue reception, then you may need to replace it. Check by visiting the aerial checker on **Teletext page 284**, or wait until after switchover to see if your picture is affected.

### I live in Northern Ireland; can I buy a Saorview box to get digital TV?\*

If you purchase a Saorview TV or box, it will pick up Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland television services where they are available. They may place the Republic's channels at the top of your programme guide. Functionality – text, subtitles and recorder timer – may vary.

**Please note:** Digital UK is unable to provide advice on Saorview equipment. Please go to [www.saorview.ie](http://www.saorview.ie) or call Saorview's helpline on **+353 1 208 3332** (if calling from Northern Ireland) for more information.

### Will I need to change my radio at the same time?

No, the digital switchover relates to TV only.

### What if I live in a flat?

If you live in a flat, it is likely you receive your TV signal via a communal aerial system. If so, you need to talk to the person who manages your property as they may need to upgrade or replace your building's communal TV aerial so you can receive a signal in your home. For more information visit [digitaluk.co.uk/sharedaerial](http://digitaluk.co.uk/sharedaerial)

### What if I need this information in an alternative format?

- If you need this information in large print, audio, Braille, or another language, please call **08456 50 50 50\***.
- If you have a hearing or speech impediment, you can contact our textphone service on **0845 234 0380\***.

Any questions? Please call us on **08456 50 50 50\*** or visit [digitaluk.co.uk](http://digitaluk.co.uk)

\*Calls are free for BT customers within inclusive calling plans. Call charges from other providers may vary. The standard business hours for Digital UK's contact centre are 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on a Saturday. Sunday closed. Opening hours will be extended during switchover in each area. Digital UK, PO Box 26833, Kirkcaldy, KY2 9AG.

## What does the Switchover Help Scheme do?

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC and provides older and disabled people with everything they need to switch one TV to digital.

### The standard offer includes:

- Easy-to-use equipment.
- Installation by an approved installer.
- A 12-month aftercare service including a free helpline.

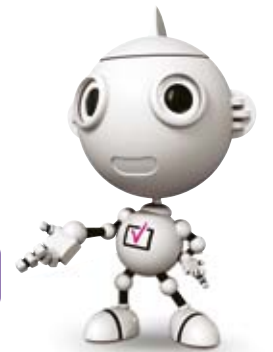
This service is available for **£40** all-inclusive or free for eligible people on certain income-related benefits.

## The Help Scheme can help everyone who:

- Is aged 75 or over, **or**
- Has lived in a care home for six months or more, **or**
- Gets (or could get) certain disability benefits, **or**
- Is registered blind or partially sighted.

The Help Scheme will write to all eligible people nearer the time.

For more information, please visit [helpscheme.co.uk](http://helpscheme.co.uk)



The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC.

