

INDUSTRY BRIEFING

From Digital UK, the organisation leading technical co-ordination of the 700MHz clearance programme

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Upcoming changes to transmitters in Q3 2018

The UHF channels used to broadcast some DTT multiplexes at certain transmitters in the Anglia, London, Meridian, STV and UTV regions will be changing between **July – September 2018**. These changes are part of work being carried out for the 700MHz clearance programme.

How will this affect viewers?

- Freeview viewers receiving their signal from a transmitter in one of the groups listed overleaf may need to retune to continue receiving some TV channels and radio services. Other platforms that use terrestrial TV, such as YouView, BT TV, EE, Plusnet and TalkTalk, will also be affected.
- Most aerials are expected to be capable of receiving a reliable signal following the changes. However, some grouped aerials - notably group C/D - may need to be updated. A wideband model is generally recommended.¹
- Full details of the affected transmitters, multiplexes, frequencies and aerial group changes are available to download as regionalised PDF files on the Digital UK website at digitaluk.co.uk/clearance.
- Some transmitters may have multiple retune dates during the clearance programme. Where dates are confirmed, these are noted in these PDFs. Otherwise we have listed the planned quarter. Retune dates are also noted in Digital UK's coverage checker at digitaluk.co.uk/coveragechecker.

Why is clearance happening?

The 700MHz band is being cleared for future mobile broadband services, following a decision by the UK Government. Ofcom announced its plan to reallocate this spectrum in November 2014. Freeview services currently using frequencies in this band are being moved to new UHF channels. Transmitters across the UK are being updated as part of a major engineering programme being carried out between now and 2020. The dates and details of changes to transmitters will be announced as the programme progresses and published online at digitaluk.co.uk/clearance.

¹ Group K or T, or equivalent, appropriate to the specific transmitter.

When are the changes taking place?

Engineering work will take place on the dates shown in the table at the end of this document and services will be subject to disruption during this time. Work on main transmitters is expected to be finished by 6am. Engineering at relays will continue until late afternoon. Viewers can retune at any point once work is completed at their transmitter.

Checklist for installers

- If you work with landlords or property managers/factors in the areas listed, please advise them of these changes (including local councils and housing offices, hotels, hospitals and care homes).
- Channelised distribution systems receiving a signal from one of the transmitters changing may need to be adjusted.
- Viewers reliant on DTT who are unable to restore those services affected after a retune as a result of these changes may be eligible for in-home support (See below). In the first instance, all viewers should be directed to freephone **0808 100 0288**.



- Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited is responsible for in-home support during these clearance events.

Further support

Free information and support will be available for these retune events.

Information will be available on the Freeview website at freeview.co.uk/tvchanges and advice as well as support can be accessed from the Freeview Advice Line on freephone **0808 100 0288**.

Please direct viewers to this number for initial support.

An information campaign to help prepare viewers, including local advertising and on-screen messaging where possible, will begin in each area approximately two weeks ahead of these changes.

A full listing of the current channels on Freeview is available at digitaluk.co.uk/channels.

Technical information on transmitters is available from the detailed view of the Digital UK coverage checker (digitaluk.co.uk/coveragechecker). You can also use our planned engineering works page (digitaluk.co.uk/engineeringworks) to keep up-to-date and check for ongoing maintenance.

General trade information on the 700MHz clearance programme is available at digitaluk.co.uk/clearance.

Upcoming Freeview retunes in Q3 2018

Transmitter group	Area Served	Retune Dates
Sandy Heath	Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire	17 July 2018
Tacolneston (Local)	Norwich and the surrounding area	17 July 2018
Bluebell Hill	North and mid Kent	19 July 2018
Crystal Palace (Forest Row)	Parts of Forest Row, Hartfield and Withyham	19 July 2018
Hastings (Hastings Old Town)	Hastings Old Town	19 July 2018
Heathfield	East Sussex and south west Kent	19 July 2018
Tacolneston (Linnet Valley)	Part of Bury St Edmunds	19 July 2018
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells area	19 July 2018
Whitehawk Hill (Patcham)	Patcham and parts of Hollingbury	19 July 2018
Sudbury	Parts of Suffolk and Essex	1 Aug 2018
Durris	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire	15 Aug 2018
Black Hill	Glasgow, central Scotland and parts of Edinburgh	5 Sept 2018
Craigkelly (Aberfoyle, Cannongate HP/VP and Newbattle)	Lothian, parts of Edinburgh and parts of Fife	5 Sept 2018
Darvel	Parts of central Scotland, Argyll and Bute	5 Sept 2018
Divis (Bellair)	Bellair	5 Sept 2018
Rosneath	Rosneath	5 Sept 2018
Black Hill (some relays only)	Haddington, parts of Glasgow and parts of central Scotland	19 Sept 2018

Q3 additional notes:

- Dates for some changes at transmitters in the Meridian region have been rescheduled by one day (originally 18 July 2018)
- Changes at the Sandy Heath main transmitter initially scheduled for Q2 2018 will now take place in this quarter
- Changes to the local multiplex at Tacolneston and the Linnet Valley relay initially scheduled for Q2 2018 will now take place in this quarter

700MHz Clearance retunes for Q2 2018

Transmitter group	Area Served	Retune Dates
Crystal Palace (some relays)	parts of Greater London and parts of the Home Counties	18 Apr 2018
Guildford	Guildford	18 Apr 2018
Hannington	parts of Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey	18 Apr 2018
Hemel Hempstead	Hemel Hempstead	18 Apr 2018
Salisbury	the Salisbury area	18 Apr 2018
Mendip (Crockerton)	Crockerton	18 Apr 2018
Mendip (Upavon)	Upavon	2 May 2018
Salisbury	the Salisbury area	2 May 2018
Rowridge	Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, parts of Dorset, Wiltshire and West Sussex	2 May 2018
Oxford	Oxfordshire, parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire	23 May 2018
Sandy Heath (some relays)	Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire	6 Jun 2018
Tacolneston	Norfolk and north Suffolk	6 Jun 2018

Full details of the UHF channels affected at each transmitter group are available in regional documents online at www.digitaluk.co.uk/clearance.

Q2 additional notes:

- At the Oxford transmitter the Local TV multiplex will broadcast on two separate frequencies, C22 and C46. The main antenna will broadcast on C22, a second antenna will broadcast on C46 towards the east to ensure existing coverage is replicated
- Clearance changes at Sandy Heath on 6 June will now affect some relays only