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Press release

digitaluk

ISLE OF MAN SWITCHOVER UNDERWAY

Freeview launches across Island • Viewers should retune

The digital TV switchover in the Isle of Man got underway this morning, as analogue BBC Two was turned off at transmitters across the Island and the first group of digital channels became available.

All terrestrial TV services were shut down shortly after midnight, with analogue BBC Two remaining permanently off. High-power digital signals have been made available from the Douglas transmitter. In some areas, terrestrial TV services will be off air for some viewers until the first stage of switchover is completed by around mid afternoon today. Once services are back on air, viewers of Freeview, BT Vision and Top Up TV should retune their boxes.¹

The new digital signal from the Douglas transmitter and its relays will provide free digital TV to 38,000 homes. For the first time, viewers who get their signal from a transmitter on the Island will be able to receive digital TV through their aerial (Freeview).

From today, all ten on-Island transmitters will broadcast the full range of BBC channels in digital form – BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, BBC Four, CBBC, CBeebies, BBC News and BBC Parliament – with more channels to follow in two weeks' time.

The second stage of switchover takes place on **Thursday, 16 July**, when the remaining analogue channels will be switched off permanently. On this date, Freeview channels from ITV, Channel 4 and Five will also become available from on-Island transmitters.

Sarah-Jane Gray of Digital UK said this morning: "Switchover is making Freeview available to 38,000 homes in the Island, providing viewers with more choice and many other advantages that come with digital TV.

"We're now encouraging viewers who still don't have the necessary equipment to get ready in time for 16 July, when all the analogue channels will be permanently switched off. Anyone who needs advice during this period should contact Digital UK."

Digital UK, the body leading 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 from 9am-5pm in Regent Street, Douglas (today) and Bowring Road, Ramsey (tomorrow).

The Switchover Help Scheme is still welcoming applications from eligible older and disabled people to get help to convert one television – including a choice of equipment, installation and aftercare. Eligible people who have already converted a TV set without assistance can still apply to convert a second set. Help Scheme engineers will be working in the area over the switchover period to help with retuning and viewers can contact the Help Scheme on 0800 40 85 901.

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Notes to editors

1. To retune your Freeview, Top-Up TV or BT Vision equipment, follow these steps:

Note: These instructions are a guide only – each product works slightly differently. Your instruction manual will explain the process for your particular product.

Make sure you do a full retune following the guide below. Some product menus have 'add channels' or 'auto search' functions which may not restore all channels.

- Switch on your digital box or digital television
- Press 'menu' on the remote control
- Select 'set up' or 'installation' option
- Select 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full retune' or 'default settings')
- Press "OK" if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels - don't worry this is normal.
- Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes, and your equipment may shut down and restart.

For more information on retuning visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning

Advice points

Switchover advice points are running at the following locations on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 June, from 10am-4pm:

Douglas: Age Concern, 19 Drinkwater Street, Douglas, IM1 1AT

Ramsey: Town Hall, Parliament Square, IM8 1RT

St John's: Tynwald Mills, IM4 3AD

Port Erin: British Legion Hall, Droghadfaule Road, IM9 6EE

Digital TV switchover is the process of converting the UK and Isle of Man'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 Isle of Man 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, Five, S4C and Teletext), and the digital multiplex operators.

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC under an agreement with the Manx 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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