

NEWS UPDATE

JULY 2017

Your regular briefing from Freeview and Digital UK - working together to support the UK's most-watched TV service.

About Freeview

Launched in 2002, Freeview is a subscription-free TV service offering 70 standard and 15 high-definition TV channels, radio stations and interactive services through an aerial. It is managed by DTV Services Ltd, a company owned and run by its five shareholders - BBC, Sky, Channel 4, ITV and Arqiva.

About Digital UK

Digital UK provides operational management of DTT and leads innovation on the platform, including the development of Freeview Play. The company is owned by the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Arqiva.

Find out more online at: freeview.co.uk and digitaluk.co.uk



[Freeview](http://freeview.co.uk)
[Digital UK](http://digitaluk.co.uk)



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VIEWERS GET MORE WITH FREEVIEW EXPLORE

Viewers with Freeview Play can now get more out of their TVs and recorders with the launch of [Freeview Explore](#). Compatible with both older and more recent devices, the new feature acts as a showcase of recommended programmes from the main catch-up players, highlighted by genre in a scrolling carousel for easy access. In the coming months, a Help and Alerts area will also provide news and information on platform updates, including instructional videos to support viewers with features such as retuning.

Guy North, Managing Director of Freeview, said: 'With more content than ever available, Freeview Explore creates an easy way for viewers to find the shows they love or discover new ones for the first time. With more product enhancements and new features in the pipeline, we'll be providing a better service to our viewers, and our channel and TV manufacturing partners too.'

TV GUIDE UPDATE BRINGS BIGGER, BETTER FREEVIEW

The Freeview TV guide is being updated on Wednesday, 2 August. The change will create space for the launch of new channels and strengthen consumer protection measures. As part of the update, some existing channels will be moving to new numbers. Freeview viewers should retune to ensure they have the latest line-up, where equipment does not do this automatically.

CHANGE TO AIRWAVES IN THE SHETLAND ISLANDS

Viewers in the Shetland Islands may need to retune their TV equipment on 26 July as technical changes are made to local transmitters. Some Freeview channels are moving to new airwaves to allow for the future development of mobile broadband services. The changes are part of the 700MHz clearance programme, a nationwide engineering project that will take place region by region between now and Q2 2020. Information for viewers is available at freeview.co.uk/tvchanges, while installers will find [technical details](#) on the Digital UK website.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS EXPANDING CHOICE IN UK TV

Digital UK has published its [annual update report](#) on digital terrestrial TV. *Expanding choice in UK television* highlights the continuing popularity of Freeview, watched in around 20m homes, and Digital UK's progress over the last 12 months leading the development of Freeview Play.

In his introduction to the report, CEO Jonathan Thompson says Freeview Play is 'levelling the playing field' for viewers by broadening the availability of catch-up TV across a range of products. He emphasises how the service is making catch-up players from the main terrestrial broadcasters increasingly standard across a broad range of products 'rather than being confined to a single manufacturer or to pay TV platforms'.

The report also highlights the broad choice of channels now available on free-to-air television, the importance of Digital UK's partnerships across industry and progress on preparations for the clearance of airwaves in the 700MHz spectrum band.

TIME TO STOP THE SALAMI-SLICING OF TV AIRWAVES

In his latest blog, Digital UK CEO Jonathan Thompson highlights the need for all spectrum users to make efficient use of their existing allocations and questions the costs and benefits of any further changes to the UHF band used for TV airwaves. Read our latest [blog](#) here.

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