

News Update

NOVEMBER 2015

Your regular briefing from Freeview and Digital UK

Welcome to News Update from Freeview and Digital UK – working together to support the UK's most-watched TV service.

GLOBAL AGREEMENT TO PROTECT AIRWAVES FOR TV

Airwaves used by Freeview will be protected for use by TV services well into the next decade, it has been announced. Meeting at the recent World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva, representatives of more than 150 governments took the decision to secure frequencies in the 600MHz band for broadcasting and postpone any future discussions around potentially using these for other services until a further meeting in 2023.

Jonathan Thompson, Chief Executive of Digital UK, said: 'The WRC decision to protect airwaves used by Freeview and terrestrial TV services across Europe is a victory for common sense and provides much needed certainty for broadcasters, viewers and industry. We will now work with Ofcom, the UK Government and network operator Arqiva to ensure a smooth transition of services from the 700MHz band as this is opened to mobile networks.'

MINISTER HAILS FREEVIEW PLAY AS GREAT STEP FORWARD

Culture Secretary John Whittingdale has praised [Freeview Play](#) for its simplicity and easy access to catch-up TV. Speaking at a Digital UK and Freeview Parliamentary reception for MPs and Peers on Monday, 23 November, the minister commended the hybrid TV service for its ease of use, saying: 'This is a great, great step forward because it makes catch-up accessible to the vast majority of the public.' Panasonic TVs and Humax digital recorders featuring Freeview Play are now on sale across the UK.

DTG UPDATES R-BOOK GUIDE FOR TV AERIAL INSTALLERS

The DTG has published a new edition of the R-Book, its official guide for DTT aerial and system installers. The update includes advice on dealing with interference from 4G mobile services and preparing homes for the future clearance of Freeview channels in the 700MHz band. Installers can download the R-Book from the DTG website [here](#).

SURVEY REVEALS STRUGGLE WITH UNWANTED CONTRACTS

Viewers are more likely to change a romantic partner than their bank, energy or TV provider and can struggle to leave service contracts, new research for Freeview suggests. A survey, conducted by TNS, found that 81 per cent of British adults who have had a romantic partner have ended a relationship at least once, while just 56 per cent have switched banks or pay TV providers. The survey also found nearly a quarter (22 per cent) of those who had tried to end a contract service with a supplier have faced difficulties.

Guy North, Managing Director of Freeview, said: 'It seems like we're often too lethargic when it's time for us to reassess our contractual arrangements and look for the best relationship with our utility providers. Freeview has always been about offering the British public great entertainment free from subscription and contracts. The recent launch of Freeview Play puts consumers back in control of their TV schedules without any contractual obligation.'

CHRISTMAS CHEER AS KNOCKOUT NEW CHANNELS ARRIVE

Freeview viewers looking to top up their Christmas spirit can now tune into a channel dedicated to the festive season. Broadcast in major towns and cities on channel 82, True Christmas offers back-to-back Christmas-themed movies designed to warm your heart and jingle your bells. Sports fans get an added bonus with the arrival of Box Nation, a new streamed DTT subscription service dedicated to boxing on channel 255. Viewers can check the line-up of channels available in their area by using the coverage checker on the [Freeview](#) or [Digital UK](#) websites.

About Freeview

Launched in 2002, Freeview is a subscription-free TV service offering more than 60 standard and 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 supports Freeview viewers and channels on digital terrestrial television (DTT). The company is owned by the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Arqiva.

Digital UK and Freeview work together to support the UK's most watched digital TV service. Find out more by visiting digitaluk.co.uk and Freeview.co.uk

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