

NEWS UPDATE

MAY 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



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TV GUIDE UPDATE OPENS WAY FOR NEW CHANNELS

Following an industry wide consultation, the Freeview TV guide is set to be updated and expanded on Wednesday, 2 August 2017. The change will increase capacity for the launch of new channels and strengthen consumer protection measures to further minimise risks around minors viewing inappropriate content. Digital UK's policy for allocating channel numbers is also being simplified to provide greater flexibility for channel providers.

Some existing channels will move to new numbers during the update and Freeview viewers will need to retune to ensure they have the latest line-up, where equipment does not do this automatically. A full [statement](#) on the outcome of the consultation can be downloaded from the Digital UK website.

DIGITAL UK BOSS POINTS TO 'BLEND OF VIEWING'

Digital UK Chief Executive Jonathan Thompson has cautioned against claims that the growth of on-demand viewing will kill off broadcast TV. Speaking at a recent Broadcasting Press Guild event, Mr Thompson said: 'Nobody can deny that TV is changing and that much of this is driven by services such as YouTube, Netflix and Amazon. I would certainly agree with those who say we're at a moment of profound change in the UK broadcast sector. But new technology alone cannot dictate the future of television. If it did, we'd all be watching 3D TV.'

'All the evidence points to a blend of viewing behaviours and technologies for the foreseeable future and we should be planning content strategies and networks which will meet that need.'

WHICH? NAMES FREEVIEW PLAY AS ONE TO WATCH

Consumer champion *Which?* has named Freeview Play as one of its [top five technology trends](#) for 2017. In recent articles the group noted the increase in manufacturers adopting the hybrid broadcast and on-demand TV service, and highlighted the brand as a way for consumers to ensure [Smart TVs](#) offer access to all of the main catch-up players.

FIRST CLEARANCE COMPLETED IN SCOTTISH BORDERS

The first clearance of Freeview signals from airwaves in the 700MHz band to allow for future mobile services has been successfully completed in the Scottish Borders. On 1 March 2017, standard-definition BBC channels were moved to a new frequency at the Selkirk transmitter. The event allowed for a trial of the processes that will be needed to support the main [clearance programme](#), which begins in other parts of Scotland this July. Details of upcoming [technical changes](#) this year at transmitters in the STV region are available on the Digital UK website.

FREEVIEW AIRWAVES PROTECTED UNTIL AT LEAST 2030

Reflecting the continuing importance and popularity of digital terrestrial television (DTT) across Europe, the European Council has agreed that broadcasting services will be given priority in the sub-700MHz spectrum band until at least 2030. Member states will have the option of using this range of

airwaves for other purposes, including mobile internet services, but these must be compatible with broadcasting needs.

BOOST FOR LOCAL TV ACROSS SCOTLAND WITH STV2

STV has rebranded its local TV service for Scotland and extended it to reach 85 per cent of viewers in its broadcasting area. On 24 April, STV2 launched across Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Ayr and Dundee. The new channel will broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week on Freeview channel 8 and can also be streamed on the STV Player. New local TV services are also available in parts of England and Wales. Made in Hampshire and Made in Thames Valley are listed on channel 7 in these regions, while Made in North Wales, serving Mold and the surrounding area, can be found at 8 in the TV guide.

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