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Press release

digitaluk

FINAL COUNTDOWN TO THE BIG TV RETUNE
500,000 viewers must act or risk losing channels

Digital TV viewers in the south of England are being reminded to get set for the big TV retune on Wednesday, 25 March or risk being faced with a blank screen.

The changes to existing digital terrestrial TV services (eg Freeview) will affect around half a million households in Hampshire, east Dorset, West Sussex and on the Isle of Wight.

Viewers will need to retune their equipment on the morning of 25 March to continue receiving digital channels, including those from the BBC, ITV and Channel 4, following an overnight re-organisation of the TV airwaves. Satellite and cable services are not affected.

To retune, viewers should follow these simple steps:

- Switch on your digital box or digital television
- Press '**menu**' on the remote control
- Select '**set up**' or '**installation**' option
- Select '**auto set up**' or '**update**'
- Channels will be automatically installed

The changes will protect existing digital television signals from interference when neighbouring areas in the UK and France start their TV switchover from May 2009. Digital UK, the independent organisation leading the implementation of switchover, launched a publicity campaign in January, which included writing to every home in the areas affected.

The TV retune will also see the analogue Channel Five service switched off permanently in Southampton, Portsmouth and parts of the Isle of Wight. After 25 March, Five will only be available via digital TV.

David Scott, Chief Executive of Digital UK, said:

"Making these changes now will help protect digital TV signals in the south of England from potential interference. Viewers may find some of their digital channels are missing on the morning of 25 March but a quick retune of their equipment should see everything back to normal. Anyone who needs further advice on retuning or getting digital TV should contact us via our helpline or look at the information on our website."

Digital TV switchover in the Meridian TV region will taken place in 2012. Analogue terrestrial TV services will be switched off and replaced in digital format along with an expanded line up of Freeview channels. Freeview coverage in the region will be boosted to 97 per cent of households, up from 61 per cent today.

Helpline 0845 845 0231

Website digitaluk.co.uk

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Notes to editors

1. For a map of the affected areas please contact Paul Hodgson on 020 7839 4321.

2. The changes affect viewers watching Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision equipment.
3. **The south coast retune** on 25 March will affect an estimated 500,000 homes who receive digital TV services from the Rowridge transmitter on the Isle of Wight, serving parts of Hampshire, east Dorset and West Sussex. Viewers can check if they are served by the Rowridge transmitter by using the postcode checker at digitaluk.co.uk or calling the helpline: 0845 845 0231.
4. **The analogue Channel Five service**, which will be switched off on 25 March, is broadcast from the Fawley transmitter, near Southampton to around 100,000 homes.

Contacts

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