

TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRIEFING

From Digital UK, the organisation leading technical co-ordination of the 700MHz clearance programme

February 2017

Changes at the Selkirk transmitter group in the Scottish Borders

The UHF channel used to broadcast the BBC A multiplex on DTT from the Selkirk transmitter in the Scottish Borders will be changing on **1 March 2017**. This change is part of work being carried out for the 700MHz clearance programme.

How will this affect viewers?

- Freeview viewers receiving their signal from the main Selkirk transmitter will need to retune to continue watching standard-definition BBC TV programmes and radio services. Other platforms that use terrestrial TV, such as YouView, BT TV and TalkTalk, will also be affected.
- Most aerials are expected to be capable of receiving a reliable signal following the changes. However, a small proportion of group C/D aerials may need to be updated to wideband models.
- Homes served by Selkirk relays will not need to retune.

Why is clearance happening?

The 700MHz band is being cleared for future mobile broadband services, following a decision by Ofcom in November 2014. Freeview services currently using frequencies in this band are being moved to new UHF channels. Transmitters across the UK are being updated as part of a major engineering programme being carried out between now and 2020.

When are the changes taking place?

Engineering work at the Selkirk main transmitter is expected to be completed by 9:30am on 1 March 2017. Viewers can retune at any point after this.

Summary of transmitter changes						
Transmitter	Mux	Current UHF Channel	New UHF Channel	ERP (kW)	Current Aerial Group	New Aerial Group
Selkirk (Main)	BBC A	50	32	10	C/D	T (wideband)

Note: Preparatory work for this change will be carried out at Selkirk relays earlier on 28 February 2017 and is expected to be completed at all stations by mid-afternoon. This will result in short, temporary outages on all services provided from the relays as they are updated, but viewers will not need to adjust their equipment. Services from Selkirk relays will return to normal when work is completed.

Temporary simulcast

To help viewers who may require support to receive UHF channel 32, a simulcast of BBC A will continue to be broadcast from Selkirk on UHF channel 50 until 29 March 2017. However, the simulcast services will be listed from LCN 751 in the Freeview guide following a retune.

HD services will not be affected by engineering work at the main transmitter. Viewers who are used to watching these should check standard-definition BBC One on LCN 1 to ensure they have retuned successfully and can receive UHF channel 32.

Checklist for installers

- If you work with landlords or property managers, please advise them of these changes (including housing offices, hotels and care homes).
- Channelised distribution systems receiving a signal from the main Selkirk transmitter may need to be adjusted.
- Viewers unable to restore their BBC services after a retune as a result of this change can get help from a TV aerial support team. In the first instance, all viewers should be directed to freephone **0808 1000 288**. (See below).



- Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited is responsible for the TV aerial support team. It is working with us to support the change, as part of a government scheme.

Further support

Free information and support will be available for this retune.

Information will be available on the Freeview website at freeview.co.uk/borders and advice as well as support can be accessed from the Freeview Advice Line on freephone **0808 1000 288**. These will be operational from 14 February.

Please direct viewers to this number for initial support.

An information campaign to help prepare viewers, including local advertising and on-screen messages, will commence from mid-February 2017.

A full listing of the current channels on Freeview is available at digitaluk.co.uk/channels

Technical information on transmitters is available from the detailed view of the Digital UK coverage checker (digitaluk.co.uk/coveragechecker). You can also use our planned engineering works page (digitaluk.co.uk/engineeringworks) to keep up-to-date and check for any changes.

General trade information on the 700MHz clearance programme is available at digitaluk.co.uk/clearance