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Press release

digitaluk

CHANNEL ISLANDS WAKE TO A DIGITAL DAWN

Freeview digital TV services available for the first time today

Analogue TV in the Channel Islands was switched off for good today, signalling the dawn of an all-digital era for 50,000 households.

Shortly after midnight, analogue BBC One, BBC Two, Channel TV and Channel 4 were turned off permanently at the Fremont Point transmitter group, allowing Freeview digital channels to be broadcast across the islands for the first time.

Terrestrial TV services are expected to be restored to most homes this morning, and in other areas (served by smaller relay transmitters) by late afternoon. Viewers switching to Freeview should tune in their digital TVs and boxes once signals are available in their area.¹

Digital UK, which has co-ordinated the switch, and the Switchover Help Scheme are today running advice points and a roadshow to provide face-to-face support for viewers who need it. The Help Scheme is still open to applications from older and disabled viewers who may qualify for help including a choice of equipment, installation and aftercare.² Applications close on 17 December.

Bill Taylor, Digital UK's Regional Manager in the Channel Islands, said: "This is an historic day for TV in the Channel Islands as we say goodbye to the old analogue system forever. Viewers have responded extremely well and many are enjoying the benefits of digital TV for the first time.

"As with any change on this scale, some people may need a bit of extra help so we and the Help Scheme are on hand to give advice and assistance to those who may need it."

Advice for viewers is also available from Digital UK via an advice line (**08456 50 50 50**) and website (**digitaluk.co.uk**). The switchover roadshow is running today and tomorrow at the following locations between 9am and 5pm:

- Jersey – West's Centre, Bath Street, St Helier
- Guernsey – outside Market Square, Market Street, St Peter Port

- Ends; notes follow -

Notes to editors

1. How to tune and retune Freeview equipment:

- Switch on your digital box or digital television
- Press 'menu' on the remote control
- Select 'set up' or 'installation' option
- Select 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full retune' or default settings')
- Press "OK" if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels - don't worry this is normal
- Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes; your equipment may shut down and restart

These instructions are a guide only – each product works slightly differently. For more information on retuning visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning or by calling 08456 50 50 50.

2. **Switchover Help Scheme:** People aged 75 and over, eligible for certain disability benefits, registered blind or partially sighted or living in care homes are entitled to practical help from the BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme. For £40, they will be given equipment to switch one TV per household to digital. They will be able to have that equipment installed if they want it, a demonstration of how it works and a number to call while they get used to things. If they're eligible and also on income-related benefits, the help will be free. More information is available on 0800 40 87 654 and online at helpscheme.co.uk.

3. **Advice Points:** A complete list of advice points is available at digitaluk.co.uk/channelislandevents

Digital television switchover is the process of converting the terrestrial television system to digital. Between now and 2012, analogue channels will be switched off region by region and replaced with free-to-air digital TV and radio services (Freeview). Switchover will extend Freeview coverage to the Channel Islands, and the whole of the UK, and free up airwaves for new services such as ultra-fast wireless broadband and mobile television. Digital services are also available via broadband, cable and satellite.

Digital UK is the independent, not-for-profit organisation established in 2005 to lead the implementation of digital switchover. It is jointly owned and funded by the public-service broadcasters (BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Five and S4C), and the digital multiplex operators.

The Switchover Help Scheme is run by the BBC under an agreement with the Channel Islands governments to help older and disabled people make the change to digital TV. More information is available from helpscheme.co.uk.

Images and video clips are available to media free of charge from vismedia.co.uk.

Follow us on Twitter for live updates on switchover: twitter.com/digitaluk

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