



Installer Newsletter Special Edition – January 2010

IMPORTANT: NEED TO RE-TUNE FOR CONTINUED RECEPTION OF BBC DTT SERVICES

- All existing Freeview viewers using the SHEFFIELD transmitter will need to RE-TUNE on 17 March 2010 to retain BBC digital TV services through an aerial.

Who's managing this event?

Digital UK is supporting Freeview to communicate the Sheffield re-tune.

Why?

The Emley Moor transmitter will commence transmission of low power high definition (HD) services in March 2010. Launch of this service is expected to cause interference to the existing low power BBC Mux 1 from the nearby Sheffield transmitter. To avoid this interaction, a temporary use 'Parking Channel' will be adopted at Sheffield until digital switchover (DSO) in 2011. **This event is not switchover related and is solely to avoid an interaction as a result of the HD roll-out.**

When?

Wednesday 17 March 2010 (by 6am)

Which?

This technical event only affects the Sheffield primary transmitter ('Sheffield') that serves homes in the Sheffield area. The Sheffield transmitter has only one dependant relay (Totley Rise) which does not carry low power Freeview and hence will not be impacted by this change.

How?

The BBC 'Mux 1' multiplex at Sheffield will move from UHF channel 39 to 63, temporarily, until DSO in Sheffield in 2011. (Mux 1 carries BBC TV channels, including BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, CBBC, and BBC News]

What is the effect on viewers?

Viewers with a Freeview TV or box will need to re-tune on or after 17 March 2010 to retain BBC Digital services.

Minimal impact is expected to consumer equipment:

- There are no changes to the 2K transmission mode to take place on the 17 March 2010.
- Equipment failures should be mainly confined to any old 'Split NIT' (pre 'digital tick') models that have not already emerged through the Freeview National Re-tune of 30 September 2009 and those that have not received a software update transmitted in 2009.

The proposed UHF parking channel (63) is outside of the existing analogue aerial group in Sheffield (Group A - channels 21 to 37). However, as the existing analogue Channel Five and low power Freeview muxes are already outside of Group A, most Freeview viewers in the Sheffield area are very likely to have wideband aerials. This has been validated by discussions with local installer and distributor companies in the area.

NB all three commercial multiplexes will be outside of Group A aerials after switchover, so in order to receive the full range of available channels at switchover in 2011, DTT viewers will in any event need a wideband aerial.

The move from UHF ch39 to ch63 will mean that those homes still using a standard Group A aerial could suffer a significant signal level reduction making the BBC Mux 1 service unstable. To address this, the BBC Mux 1 transmission power will be increased tenfold (from 100W to 1kW) commencing from the point when the parking channel is adopted. Homes with high gain wideband aerials and masthead amps or splitters/boosters are unlikely to be affected. Their amplifiers' maximum system gain will be limited by already being exposed to five high power analogue services, four running at 5kW and one at 2.5kW. Communal systems using channelised amplifiers will need to have the gain reduced on the BBC Mux, but could be done through work required anyway to tune the amplifier to the new channel.

