

switchovernews

Your monthly briefing from digitaluk
in the Meridian TV region

7 FEBRUARY 2012

The latest news about digital television switchover



FIRST MERIDIAN SWITCHOVER TOMORROW

Over a million viewers across parts of Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey watching television from the Hannington transmitter will begin to switch to digital TV tomorrow. Viewers receiving television from the Midhurst, Rowridge and Whitehawk Hill transmitters will also begin to switch soon.

The digital TV switchover is a two-stage process. At **stage one (8 February)**, analogue BBC Two is switched off. The BBC Freeview channels are then boosted in power and become available from local relay transmitters for the first time. A fortnight later at **stage two (22 February)**, all remaining analogue services are switched off and all other Freeview channels increase in power and become available from relay transmitters.

Viewers with digital TVs or Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision boxes will need to retune their equipment at both stages of switchover. [Guidance on retuning](#) and selecting preferred regional services is available from our website and advice line.

Viewers can receive help and information at both stages of switchover from our [advice points](#) in Newbury, Basingstoke, Andover or Alton or from our roadshow, on Broad Street East, Reading.

KENT AND SUSSEX SWITCHOVERS FAST APPROACHING

With just over 100 days until viewers in Kent and East Sussex begin to switch to digital television, we are stepping up our communications campaign. Every home will soon receive their guide to switchover and from March, [roadshows](#) will be held in towns across the region.

HOW TO FIND YOUR DIGITAL SWITCHOVER DATE

When you switch depends on which transmitter broadcasts a TV signal to your home – a list of switchover dates across the region is available [here](#). Viewers can find out when they are due to switch, and the channels they should receive after switchover, via Digital UK's [online postcode checker](#).

HELP SCHEME STILL OPEN FOR OLDER AND DISABLED PEOPLE

There is still time for eligible older and disabled people to apply to the Switchover Help Scheme for practical help converting one TV set to digital. The Help Scheme has written to everyone who is eligible but people must respond to get help.

The Help Scheme (helpscheme.co.uk), run by the BBC, helps older and disabled people make the change to digital TV. For £40 (or free for those on certain income-related benefits) all eligible people will be offered practical help to convert one of their TV sets to digital including easy to use equipment, installation and aftercare. People are eligible if: they are aged 75 years and over; or they have lived in a care home for six months or more; or they are registered blind or partially sighted or get (or could get) certain disability benefits. Eligible people can receive help for a second set even if they have already converted a TV by themselves.

For more information about the Switchover Help Scheme, please contact the Help Scheme's Regional Manager Caroline Byng.

YOUR MERIDIAN DIGITAL SWITCHOVER TEAM

Digital UK's Regional Manager for Meridian is **Bill Taylor**. He can be contacted by [email](mailto:bill.taylor@digitaluk.co.uk) or phone 07970 861 238.

The Switchover Help Scheme Regional Manager is **Caroline Byng**. She can be contacted by [email](mailto:caroline.byng@digitaluk.co.uk) or phone 07590 306 930.

DIGITAL UK IS HERE TO HELP

Digital UK is the independent, not-for-profit organisation set to lead the UK's switch to digital television. We can tell you when switchover will happen in your area and offer advice on the digital TV options available. Visit our website digitaluk.co.uk or call our advice line on 08456 50 50 50. We will keep you updated on the latest campaign developments. But as always we would be delighted to meet you to discuss any aspect of Digital UK's work. Please contact us if we can be of any help.

If you work in local government or the housing sector, there is specialist information to help you get ready for switchover available from the following sites: digitaluk.co.uk/localgov and digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers. More than 98% of social housing providers in the Meridian TV region are now ready for switchover or have plans in place.

Digital UK is the not-for-profit organisation leading the UK's switch to digital television, which starts in the Meridian region in February 2012. To find out more visit digitaluk.co.uk/meridian

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