



**Trading Standards Information Leaflet**

**THE DIGITAL TV  
SWITCHOVER IN PERTH AND  
KINROSS**

**4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010  
to  
18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010**

# **THE DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER IN PERTH AND KINROSS**

In August 2010 the 'traditional' analogue terrestrial TV signal in some areas of Perth and Kinross will be switched off. (The Kinross area is not switching to digital TV until 2012).

On 4 August analogue BBC 2 will be switched off and replaced by a group of digital channels, on the 18 August all the other analogue channels will be switched off and replaced by more digital channels.

This will affect areas served by the Angus transmitter and relays. This will give access to many more channels than are available at present on terrestrial TV, it will also allow the broadcast of High Definition (HD) TV.

**However to be able to receive TV after the changeover you will need to ensure that you are ready and that you are aware of the options available.**

This leaflet aims to help you do this.

### ***What do I need to do?***

If you currently receive **Freesat, Freeview (also BT Vision or Top-Up TV), Virgin or Sky TV** then after the switchover you will still receive programs on TV sets connected to these services (If you have Freeview you may need to do a channel rescan on your box or TV.)

If your TV (or TVs) can only receive BBC1+2, STV and Channel 4 (and possibly Ch 5) then you will need to take action to ensure that you can carry on watching.

### ***MY main TV is OK but what about my TV set in the kitchen, which currently gets only BBC1+2, STV and Channel 4?***

This will need updating with a Freeview box, or you may be able to get it added to your existing Virgin, Sky etc. package.

### ***Currently I can only get the four main channels in my home. What are my options?***

You will need to connect to one of the digital services. Your main options are listed overleaf.

### ***Your Main Options Are:***

*1)-Freeview.* This is received through your existing aerial (though it may need upgrading). You will need to add a Freeview box to your TV or buy a new TV with a Freeview tuner (an integrated TV). You do not **have** to buy a new TV, as practically all TVs currently in use can be upgraded. There is no subscription fee.

The service carries up to 40 or so TV channels and over a dozen radio channels as well as text services. From the Angus transmitter it will carry HD TV services from August. (Contact 0870 111 1240 or visit [Freeview.co.uk](http://Freeview.co.uk)).

*2)-Freesat.* You will need a satellite dish fitted to your house as well as a Freesat box or Freesat integrated TV. There is no subscription, but you do need to buy the equipment and pay for installation. It carries up to 80 channels. It currently carries HD TV services. (Contact 0845 313 0053 or visit [freesat.co.uk](http://freesat.co.uk)).

*3)-Freesat from Sky.* You will need a satellite dish fitted to your house as well as a Sky box. There is no subscription, but you do need to buy the equipment and pay for installation. It can receive up to 200 channels. It currently carries HD TV services. (Contact 08442 410 595 or visit [www.freesatfromsky.co.uk/](http://www.freesatfromsky.co.uk/)).

*4)-Virgin Media.* This is a cable service and is not available everywhere. This is a subscription service. You will receive a box which will allow you to access these services. You can receive up to 140 TV channels as well as on demand services. It currently carries HD TV services.(Contact 0800 052 2525 or visit [virginmedia.com](http://virginmedia.com)).

*5)-Sky.* This is a satellite service-you will need to have a dish fitted to your home as well as a Sky box. It is a subscription service. You can receive up to 160 TV channels with over 200 free-to-air channels as well. It currently carries HD services. (Contact 08442 410 285 or visit [sky.com](http://sky.com)).

*6)-Top Up TV.* This is an add on service to Freeview. You receive the Freeview channels plus on demand TV favourites, sport and films. There is a monthly subscription and a special digital box is needed. It is not available in areas served by relay transmitters. (Contact 08444 158 158 or visit [topuptv.com](http://topuptv.com))

*7)-BT Vision.* This is an add on service to Freeview. You receive the Freeview channels plus on demand TV, films and sport via the internet. A special digital box is supplied. You will need a BT broadband subscription.(Contact 0800 678 1984 or visit [bt.com/vision](http://bt.com/vision)).

(\*Options 4-7 require a subscription,1-3 do not.)

***I am thinking of getting Freeview, what channels will I get?***

Freeview offers up to 48 TV channels as well as some radio channels. What you receive depends upon coverage where you live.

**For Perth and many of the other towns in Perth and Kinross (the ones which are served by relay transmitters) you will only get a reduced service. For someone in the centre of Perth this will be around 15 TV channels plus around 13 radio channels. (information from Freeview coverage checker).**

***You mentioned above that some areas in Perth and Kinross will not get the full Freeview package. What is this about?***

In areas served directly by the Angus transmitter the full Freeview package is already available. In areas served by relay transmitters no Freeview channels are available yet. When the changeover occurs the relay transmitters will carry some digital signals but not all. The reason for this is a technical one. The result is that these areas will get around 15 TV channels instead of 40 or so. However the Freeview HD channels will also be available to those served by relay transmitters.

### ***Will I need to get a new aerial?***

Many aerials will still work with digital signals. Your existing aerial may be OK. If you want to check go to Teletext p284 where there is a test for your aerial. In general terms if you get a good analogue picture you should be fine with digital.

### ***How do I know that the equipment I am thinking of buying will work correctly?***

Look for the 'digital tick' logo on equipment. It appears on equipment designed to keep working after switchover.

### ***I have an older TV but I like it and want to keep using it. Can I connect it to a digital box?***

Older TV sets may not have a SCART socket. This is the multi-pin socket on the back of newer sets that you can use to connect other devices such as a DVD player. If your TV does not have a SCART socket you can still connect a digital box to as long as you make sure that the box is able to connect to a TV via the aerial cable. (In technical terms you need a digital box which has an RF modulator.) Ask your retailer for advice on such digital boxes. But remember that just about any TV can be connected to a digital box to allow it to receive digital TV signals.

## ***What will happen to my video recorder-will it stop working?***

It will work as it always has, the only thing is that its built in analogue TV tuner will not receive any signals, but if you connect it to the digital box that you have for your TV it will still be able to record programs from this. The main thing to remember is that if you wish to record one channel and watch another you will need to buy a separate digital box for it as it well, as you will also have to do if you buy a new TV with an integrated digital tuner and you want to keep on recording programs on your video recorder.

If you only want to use the Video to watch existing tapes then you need do nothing. If you buy a new TV you can still connect a video to it. (Via a SCART lead or via the aerial lead if the TV has an analogue tuner-as most still do but this will become less common after full UK digital switchover.)

## ***I have heard that some digital boxes can record TV programs inside themselves.***

You are talking of digital TV recorders (Also known as PVRs or DTRs), such as Freeview+, Sky+, V+(from Virgin Media) or Top Up TV boxes. These often have two or more digital tuners which allow you to record one channel while watching another. They record the TV

program onto an internal, computer style, hard drive. They also will convert your TV to digital. Such devices can also include DVD and/or video recorders.

### ***What is High Definition TV?***

High Definition (HD) TV is a recent development. It gives a much sharper and more lifelike picture than standard definition TV. To receive it you will need a suitable HD TV as well as an HD digital box (or an HD TV with an integrated HD tuner). It is important to remember that an HD TV with an integrated standard Freeview tuner will not receive HD TV when available on Freeview-you need one with an HD tuner.

HD TV is available now from Virgin Media, Freesat and from Sky. It will be available after digital switchover from Freeview.

### ***I have a video recorder and a DVD player and I want to get an HD TV. Will these work with my new TV?***

Yes they will, just connect them via the SCART sockets on the new TV. (Some DVD players are called 'upscaling' as they produce a near HD image on an HD TV if connected via an HDMI connector-this is the type of connector used for HD). To get full HD from a

DVD type disc you will need to get a Blu-ray player and Blu-ray discs.

### ***What is Blu-ray DVD?***

This is an HD disc. It needs to be played on a Blu-ray player. Blu-ray discs will not play on an ordinary DVD player, even an upscaling one. Blu-ray players also will play ordinary DVDs. (There was another HD disc format called HD DVD but this is now obsolete. Players marked as HD DVD will not play Blu-ray discs.) Blu-ray players are connected via an HDMI connector.

### ***Can I get more information on what Freeview channels I will get?***

Yes, phone **08708 80 99 80** or, if you have internet access, visit [www.freeview.co.uk/availability](http://www.freeview.co.uk/availability) to check what channels you should be able to receive at your address.

### ***Is there any help available?***

There is The Switchover Help Scheme it is available to:-

- People over 75
- People who have lived in a care home for 6 months or more
- People who are registered blind or partially sighted.
- People who get (or could get)

- disability living allowance,
- attendance or constant attendance allowance,
- mobility supplement

The scheme costs £40, but it is free to those on certain income related benefits.

For more details phone **0800 408 5900** or visit [www.helpscheme.co.uk](http://www.helpscheme.co.uk)

***I am not eligible for the help scheme but I would still like some more advice.***

You can phone digitaluk on **08456 50 50 50**  
Or visit [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk)

You will also find copies of the advice leaflet produced by digitaluk available in many TV retailers.

Road shows around Perth and Kinross are being arranged by digitaluk. They will offer advice on all aspects of the switchover. For more details phone **08456 50 50 50** or visit [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk)

You can also ask your local TV retailer for advice.

This leaflet has been produced for guidance only, if you wish further advice contact **Trading Standards** at:

Perth & Kinross Council  
The Environment Service  
Pullar House  
35 Kinnoull Street  
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The information is correct as of March 2010.