

Balquhiddar TV Self Help Association.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: G. Courtney [mailto:anything@kingshouse-scot.demon.co.uk]
Sent: 11 March 2002 09:06
To: Jane.humphreys@dti.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Balquhiddar TV Self Help Association

I have been corresponding for some years with Simon Mitchell at The Department of Culture, Media and Sport. trying to determine what the future holds for people like us when Digital Terrestrial Television replaces Analogue in the next few years.

In my most recent correspondence Simon suggested I should respond to "The Principles For Spectrum Planning.

By way of background information our Self Help TV Association was formed in 1980. At that time only a few houses could receive TV signals in The Balquhiddar Glen which has 141 Houses (source Royal Mail Bulk Mail Delivery service for our Post Codes).

Our TV Self Help Association transmitter serves about one third of the Balquhiddar Glen.

In recent years we raised some thousands of pounds, and replaced our transmitting equipment and added channel 5.

Over the years many attempts were made to have a public transmitter installed to cover the Balquhiddar Glen fully, all of which failed.

When Digital Television replaces Analogue we are faced with a cost of something in excess of £12,000-00 for the equipment plus installation costs.

We view this as quite unacceptable, especially as we are only some 50 miles from both the major cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

My association has asked me to formally request you allocate frequency for a transmitter to cover our particular TV needs.

Under the Digital Terrestrial Television Network plan we ask you to target the Balquhiddar Glen and ensure we are provided with Digital TV Signals.

Additionally the Balquhiddar Glen runs on an East/West direction with very steep mountain sides. Some tests have been carried out and we have found that Sky Digital Dishes are set so low (almost horizontal) it means a large number of houses will not be able to receive Satellite Transmissions. This means the only sure way to bring Digital Television to the Balquhiddar Glen is with a strategically sited terrestrial transmitter.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

W J Courtney
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