

Generic Letter to all Local Authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland



13 January 2006

Dear Chief Executive

Digital Switchover

The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to the announcement made by Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 15 September 2005 confirming the regional timetable for the switch from analogue to digital television transmissions and to explain why it is important, if you have not already done so, that you should begin preparations.

Digital switchover will involve the phased switch-off of the analogue terrestrial television transmission network and its replacement with a new, fully digital television network. The programme for digital switchover will be rolled out starting at the end of 2008, following the pattern of ITV regions, in the following order:

| Regional Timetable – by ITV Region | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------------|------|
| Border | Start 2008 | Yorkshire | 2011 |
| West Country | | Anglia | |
| HTV Wales | 2009 | Central | |
| Granada | | Meridian | |
| HTV West | 2010 | Carlton / LWT | 2012 |
| Grampian | | Tyne Tees | |
| Scottish Television | | Ulster | |

Digital switchover will affect all television equipment that has not yet been adapted or converted to receive digital television services. This includes television sets, video



recorders and some communal television aerial systems used or operated by local authorities in local authority run premises as well as those in individual homes. A particular area where local authorities may need to take action is communal television aerial systems found in blocks of flats and other buildings such as residential care homes.

The attached briefing note sets out in more detail how digital switchover may affect how you plan to deliver services. In particular, it sets out the role of Digital UK, the organisation established by the public service broadcasters, including the BBC, and terrestrial transmission operators to manage the process of switchover. Further details are available from <http://www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk> and <http://www.digitaluk.co.uk>. If you have any questions about the briefing note please contact Ian O'Neill on 020 7211 6355 or by e-mail to digital.television@culture.gsi.gov.uk. For more information about digital switchover please contact Ian Adams at Digital UK on 020 7462 5444 or by e-mail to ian.adams@digitaluk.co.uk.

A copy of this letter and the briefing note is being circulated to the Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government, and the Northern Ireland Office as well as to the Chairs of the local government associations in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. A copy is also being sent separately to Directors of Housing.

Yours faithfully

David Hendon
Director, DTI

Andrew Ramsay
Director General, DCMS