

SOUTH WEST WALES PREPARES TO GO DIGITAL

One month until digital switchover

South west Wales is ready to have its analogue signal permanently switched off in one month's time, according to latest research.

With the first stage of switchover in Preseli on 19 August just 28 days away, nearly nine-in-ten homes in the area have already got digital television or have bought Freeview boxes to convert their analogue sets. The second stage of switchover takes place on 16 September, 2009, when all analogue television broadcasts will cease from the Preseli transmitter and its local 'relay' masts.

Just one week later on 26 August Carmel will start switching to a digital signal and will complete its switch on 23 September. To find out which transmitter you receive your TV signal from and when it's going to switch from a terrestrial to a digital signal go to <http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/postcodechecker/>

Digital UK is now starting its final wave of communications to make sure viewers know what's happening and how to prepare. Local advertising will continue to explain the process throughout the switchover period, and Advice Points will be based in the areas where you can receive face-to-face advice.

Digital UK has teamed up with Trading Standards to encourage residents who may need a new aerial to use contractors who are 'Registered Digital Installers' (RDIs) and who display the 'digital tick' logo. This means they are approved and security-checked with the relevant qualifications and insurance.

A full list of RDI installers in Wales can be found at rdi-lb.tv or by calling the Digital UK helpline on 08456 50 50 50. If householders cannot find a local RDI installer, they are advised to look for an installer registered with the Confederation of Aerial Industries' CAI Plus scheme or the Independent Digital Standards Commission (IDSC). More information can be found at digitaluk.co.uk.

Ofcom estimates only five to ten per cent of households will need a new aerial to receive TV after switchover. People can check the strength of their existing aerial by visiting Teletext page 284. The typical cost to repair or replace a standard aerial varies from £60 to £180.

Residents in south west Wales are also being asked to get behind the Switchover Help Scheme's 'Pass it On' campaign to help someone else switch to digital. Those who are set for digital are being urged to check that every friend or neighbour, who may be eligible for practical help from the Help Scheme knows what their options are. Eligible people are those over 75, those who have lived in a care home for longer than 6 months, those on DLA / attendance allowance / mobility supplement and those who have registered visual impairments. It is not too late to receive the help and more information is available by calling the Help Scheme free on 0800 40 85 9001 or visiting helpscheme.co.uk.

There is plenty of help at hand locally including local Advice Points throughout the Preseli and Carmel areas where you can drop in and talk to someone:

Transmitter	Advice Point Location	Available on Digital Switchover 1 and day after	Available on Digital Switchover 2 and day after
Preseli	PAVS, 36-38 High Street, Haverfordwest, Pembs. SA61 2DA	19th & 20th August	16th & 17th September
	Age Concern Cardigan, 38, Pendre, Cardigan, Ceredigion SA43 1JS		
	The De Valence Theatre Foyer, Upper Frog Street, Tenby, Pembs. SA70 7JD		
	CAVS, 18 Queen Street, Carmarthen, Carms. SA31 1JT		
Carmel	Builth Wells Community Support, 14 High Street, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3DN	26th & 27th August	23rd & 24th September
	Llandrindod Wells Volunteer Bureau, Oxford House, High Street, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AG		
	Age Concern Sir Gar, 8 Murray Street, Llanelli, Carms. SA15 1DZ		
	CAVS, 18 Queen Street, Carmarthen, Carms. SA31 1JT		

Voluntary groups can contact Rachel Evans, RSVP / Digital Outreach on 07733 265769 or cars4carersrsvp@csv.org.uk.