

Spectrum Update – April 2008

The impact of Digital Switch-over for users of 470– 862MHz

You will be aware that digital switchover (DSO) – the move from analogue to digital terrestrial television in the UK – started during November 2007. This process will continue region by region and will be completed in 2012. At the same time, the spectrum cleared of broadcasting will be released for new uses through Ofcom's Digital Dividend Review (DDR). One of the consequences of these developments is that the configuration of spectrum currently available for Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) use in UHF Bands IV and V (470-854 MHz) will change.

Ofcom published a statement and information in January 2008¹ which described the frequencies likely to be available for PMSE after switchover has taken place. You will find a list of these frequencies on JFMG's website at www.jfmg.co.uk. You should note, however, that some of the frequencies identified could be identified for separate award under the DDR, and so availability would not be guaranteed for PMSE.

Ofcom are consulting on all proposals in Spring 2008. PMSE users are advised to bear this in mind when making decisions on equipment use. Where users believe that their current equipment will not be able to tune into available channels after DSO, they should contact their equipment supplier in the first instance. It may be possible to retune or modify equipment to operate in the new frequencies. All PMSE users are advised to check the availability of spectrum with us before retuning, modifying or replacing equipment.

¹ <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/ddr/statement/statement2/statement.pdf>