

Radio and Television in the Isle of Man

Radio Stations

There are three radio stations broadcasting from the Isle of Man: [Manx Radio](#), [Energy FM](#) and [Three FM](#). BBC Radio 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Classic FM are also available from local transmitters.

DAB is broadcast from the Douglas (Carnane) transmitter.

Television Licence

A TV Licence is required to watch or record TV programmes. For more information, including the cost of a Licence please see the [TV Licensing website](#).

If you are aged over 75, the law changed on 1 September 2016 and free over 75 TV Licences are no longer available in the Isle of Man. If you already have a free over 75 TV Licence, it will cover you until the expiry date shown on the licence. If you are 75 or over and need a TV Licence, [you need to buy one](#). Find out how you can [pay for a TV Licence](#).

However, from 1 December 2016, you can claim the **full cost** of your TV Licence from the Isle of Man Social Security Division if you or your partner are aged over 75 or have reached state pension age **and** are getting Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.

Further information, including how to claim back payment for a TV licence if you are over 75 is available [here](#).

Television Channels and Availability

You can receive TV from a variety of sources: Digital Terrestrial TV (DTT) via Freeview (from on and off-island transmitters), digital satellite TV via Freesat or Sky and, increasingly, TV over the Internet via services such as [BBC iPlayer](#), [ITV Player](#), [Channel 4OD](#) and [Demand Five](#).

Digital television is dependent on which digital TV platform you're watching. On-island Freeview transmitters currently transmit up to 25 TV channels (including all public service channels) plus other radio and information channels. If you are tuned to an off-island Freeview transmitter, you may be able to receive around 55 TV channels plus radio and information services. You can use [Freeview's Coverage Checker](#) to find out which channels you should be receiving as channel line ups are subject to change.

If you're watching satellite TV, ([Sky](#), [Freesat](#) or [Freesat from Sky](#)) it's best to check their websites from time to time as channel line ups can change frequently and may be dependent on subscription to certain packages.

HD TV is up to four times more detailed than standard definition TV and is available on-island from Sky and subscription free via Freesat. Freeview HD is also available. First of all, you do not need to replace your standard Freeview equipment if you don't wish to watch Freeview HD. However, to watch HD TV you will need HD equipment and a HD signal.

To watch HD on Sky, Freesat or Freeview, you'll need a TV that can show HD pictures. Look for the 'HD Ready' logo as these TVs will accept signals in either of the two HD TV standards known as 720p or 1080i. You'll also need an HD compatible set-top box, such as a Sky+ HD box, Freesat+ HD box or a Freeview HD box. There is also a limited range of HD TVs with integrated Freesat HD available.

How to Investigate a Television Reception Problem

If you have an issue with your Freeview, you should take the following steps:

1. Log onto the Digital UK website (<http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/home>) and scroll down to the bottom of the page. In the "Coverage Checker" box type in your postcode and house number or name. Then click on the button "check".
2. This will load a new page, showing the most likely transmitter being used at your property. You can click on "check other transmitters which serve this address" to find out what coverage you can expect from other transmitters.
3. In the Isle of Man you will usually pick up around 25-30 channels. A quick way of establishing whether you are on the right transmitter is to check if you are receiving Granada News. If you receive any other news channel such as Border news, you will be receiving the signal from the wrong transmitter and this is probably why you are not receiving good signal.
4. If you need to change transmitter there is helpful guidance on the Digital UK website for how to retune: http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/coveragechecker/manual_retuning

How to Investigate a Radio Reception Problem

If you have a radio reception issue, you can log onto the Radio and TV Help website (<https://radioandtvhelp.co.uk/interference>) and enter your postcode and the platform you are receiving interference on (e.g. AM, FM, DAB) into the "transmitter checker" box on the right hand side. This will then tell you whether there are any issues in your area.

Unresolved Reception Problems

The BBC is responsible for investigating complaints of interference to domestic radio and television. Potential causes of interference inside the home can include central heating thermostats, fridge-freezers and some dimmer switches, for example on halogen lights. Under some circumstances, radio or other electrical equipment outside your home can also cause interference.

Before reporting interference to the BBC, you should check your TV or Radio installation to ensure it is operating correctly. In some cases, faults such as poor aerial connections, can be the cause of the interference. For further assistance you should contact a qualified aerial specialist, preferably a member of the Confederation of Aerial Industries, will be able to check for you (see the Yellow Pages under 'TV & Radio Aerial Services') or contact your satellite provider.

If you receive television from a communal aerial system, for example you live in a block of flats; you should contact your landlord or aerial contractor for help.

If there appears to be a transmitter problem you can also get advice and information on planned engineering works from http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/operations/planned_engineering_works or you can contact the broadcaster concerned (e.g. ITV or the BBC). If you are still having problems the <http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/> will provide you with more information and enable you to ask the BBC to investigate the problem.

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