

Press Release

16 February 2011

Digital TV for all KCTMO residents!

More than 9000 Council tenants and leaseholders are set to receive the new digital TV signal when the old analogue signal is switched off in 2012 thanks to the efforts of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Kensington & Chelsea TMO.

The Council and the TMO are investing in communal aerials and satellite reception systems across the borough which will give tenants access to Freeview, digital radio and satellite services, including a wide range of free-to-air channels in English and foreign languages. This will also mean existing satellite dishes can be removed improving the appearance of properties.

As landlord the Council is responsible for making sure communal TV aerials are upgraded to receive digital signals. The TMO will be delivering the installation of cabling and equipment on the Council's behalf. This work is due to be completed April 2012.

TMO Chief Executive Robert Black said: "We are really pleased to be working with the Council to ensure residents' switchover to this new low cost service. This is the best option for the majority of our residents, and will allow many families access to numerous global channels previously unavailable to them."

Councillor Timothy Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "The switch from analogue to digital signal for TV will soon be upon us. The Council and the TMO are working hard to make sure the switch over happens smoothly whilst improving the service. Currently many tenants have a very limited service and poor picture quality, the new digital service will mean they will have the opportunity to access more channels at very low cost."

The cost to residents is estimated to be a £1 a week per home. Residents eligible for Housing Benefit will be able to claim this cost.

Digital UK, the not-for-profit company responsible for leading switchover will offer extra practical help with converting to digital for older and disabled people who need it – refer to the Switchover Help Scheme at www.helpscheme.co.uk.

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Notes for editors

Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) is responsible for managing some council homes on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It was set up following two ballots on 1 April 1996, and took over management of 10,000 properties.

The Council still owns the properties and retains responsibility for strategic housing policies and homeless people. The relationship between the TMO and the Council is governed by a Modular Management Agreement, and while the TMO works closely with the Council, it is a separate company.