



department for  
**culture, media  
and sport**

**BIS**

Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

# Digital Radio Action Plan

## Version 2

November 2010

improving  
the quality  
of life for all

Our aim is to improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, support the pursuit of excellence, and champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.



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# 1. The Government's Vision

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Radio plays an important part in everyday life in the UK; around 90 per cent of the population together consume over a billion hours of radio each week. Even at a time when the range of services and technologies competing for consumers' 'free time' is greater than ever before, total radio listening has grown. This is evidence, if it were needed, of the special relationship listeners have with radio, a relationship which has stood the test of time. However, radio is not immune to the changing world.



The analogue media landscape which radio heralded in the 1920s, with the first BBC Home Service broadcast, is quickly giving way to the new digital world. Digital radio is an opportunity for greater choice, functionality and importantly, control for the listener. Media businesses can be freed of the constraints of an analogue world, of limited spectrum and services.

Across Europe, other countries are recognising the benefits of digital radio. Both France and Sweden have passed legislation to incentivise growth of digital radio and Germany has recently agreed funding for the roll-out of national digital radio. The direction of travel in Europe, and in fact at an international level, is clearly moving towards digital.

The UK remains the world leader in the take-up of digital radio; nearly 11 million DAB radios have been sold to 35 per cent of households. Listening to digital radio accounts for 24 per cent of all radio listening in the UK, in addition to the countless hours of audio content consumed on the internet. UK-based manufacturers are market leaders innovating and designing products on sale around the world.

The benefits of a transition to digital for the radio industry have been well documented; both in terms of cost savings and the potential for new growth. However, the benefits for consumers are far less apparent. We believe that any transition from analogue to digital radio must be consumer-led, both in terms of the take-up of DAB radios and the extent to which listeners are choosing to consume their radio via digital, rather than analogue, platforms. To this end the whole radio sector must do more to develop a range of services, functionality and devices which will drive consumer demand. However, Government and regulators must ensure that if, or when, the market is ready for a transition, or switchover, to digital it can be delivered in a way so as to protect the needs of listeners, and results in a radio industry fit for a digital age.

In achieving the balance between the needs of the industry and the consumer, it is essential that any digital radio switchover should only begin when the market is ready. It is for that reason that a decision on switchover can only be made once:

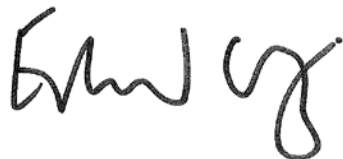
- 50 per cent of all listening is to digital; and
- National DAB coverage is comparable to FM, and local DAB reaches 90 per cent of the population and all major roads.

In 2002, the joint Government-industry Digital TV Action Plan was published. This set out the process for providing ministers with the information and assurances necessary to make a decision on whether to proceed with switching off the analogue TV transmitters and providing digital TV transmissions to all households able to receive analogue previously. This information was essential in allowing Ministers ultimately to agree to and set a timetable for digital TV switchover in 2005.

We now set out the joint Government-industry Digital Radio Action Plan, which again seeks to inform a future decision on a Digital Radio Switchover. The Action Plan will address the key issues of DAB coverage planning, waste disposal and energy consumption, which have been key themes of the public debate around a Digital Radio Switchover. In addition, the Digital Radio Action Plan will consider how such a transition would be implemented and delivered.

The Government believes that certainty, for the sector and consumers, is key to unlocking the potential and building confidence in a digital future for radio. We have already said that the transition to digital radio must be consumer led, while at the same time recognising the industry's desire for quick progress. In many of these areas, consumers will benefit from early action and clarity of direction so, where possible, the Action Plan seeks to resolve issues quickly.

The Action Plan will provide a focus for the radio broadcasters, manufacturers, consumer representatives and Government to address the barriers which have for too long provided a barrier to a successful digital radio market in the UK.



**Ed Vaizey**

**Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries.**



## 2. The Action Plan's Objectives and Timetable

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The passing of the Digital Economy Act 2010 laid the foundations for a Digital Radio Switchover by changing the radio licensing framework and providing broadcasters and multiplex operators with the certainty to invest further in DAB.

The purpose of this Action Plan is not to implement a transition to digital radio, but to provide the information to allow for a well-informed decision by Government on whether to proceed with a radio switchover. Following a decision to proceed, this Action Plan would enable Government to decide when and how to deliver a radio switchover and set the foundations for a successor project to implement it.

The technical and social scale of the process must not be underestimated; comprehensive and long-term planning is needed to identify and address the regulatory, technical and social impact of a possible Digital Radio Switchover. The Action Plan will be subject to quarterly review and will during the duration of the programme be amended to capture new issues and refine the delivery timetable.

The Government cannot, nor should it, tackle these issues alone. The broadcasters, manufacturers and, importantly, consumers must have a role in shaping the Government's thinking and future policies. The Action Plan provides a framework and focus for the engagement of these parties.

### Objectives

The Action Plan will seek to address five key objectives. These are:

#### 1. CONSUMER CHOICE

- Of content: the development of new digital-only content; this includes data services, such as news, travel, and weather.
- Of technology: to support a wide range of technologies used to deliver digital radio, including DAB, internet and Digital TV.
- Of equipment: to support the development of a diverse range of digital radio devices.

## 2. QUALITY

- Of sound: to understand attitudes about digital sound quality and where appropriate support improvements.
- Of services: to support the development of a high quality and innovative radio services and new functionality.

## 3. AFFORDABILITY

- Of household conversion: to ensure that switching to digital is an affordable option for the vast majority of the population.
- Of in-vehicle conversion: to provide a wide range of affordable options to convert vehicles to DAB radio.

## 4. ACCESSIBILITY

- To services: ensuring that DAB coverage matches FM before a date for the switchover is set, ensuring that those who can receive FM services can also receive national and local DAB services.
- Of devices: to provide digital radio receivers which are easy to use and accessible for all users.

## 5. AWARENESS

- Through communications: by delivering a public information campaign and developing a common set of standards and testing for digital devices with a kitemark to ensure consumers understand digital radio and are better informed when purchasing devices.
- Through training: for retailers to provide clear advice to consumers at the point of sale.

### **Timetable of Action Plan**

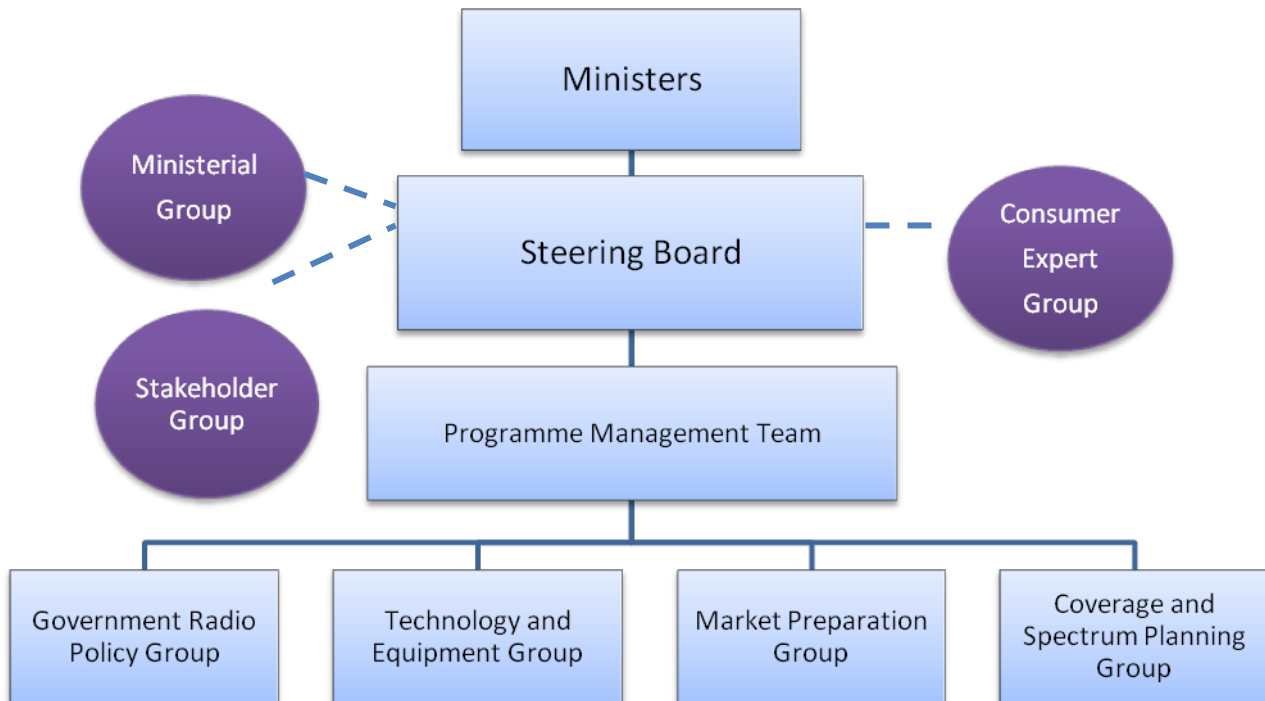
The Government recognises the industry desire to reduce the burden of dual-transmission through an early switchover. There are also benefits to consumers of a quicker transition to digital radio and the certainty this can bring, including a reduction in the price of digital receivers through greater economies of scale. Therefore, the timetable for the delivery of the Action Plan supports a switchover date of 2015 as a target which all parts of the industry can work towards. This is reflected in the timings of the work strands which follow in section 4. However, there should be no conflict between the timetable and the switchover criteria. When the decision is made to set a firm date for digital switchover, it will be the criteria, not the timetable, which take precedence.





## 3. Programme Structure

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### Steering Board

The Steering Board is the principal decision-making body within the Action Plan structure, with the Board managing the strategic delivery of the Action Plan through the Programme Management Team. The Steering Board will provide the forum in which recommendations can be made to ministers, who will ultimately make the decision whether to go ahead with switchover.

- *Meet monthly*
- *Chaired by the Senior Responsible Owner*

## **Programme Management Team**

The Programme Management Team will be made up of officials from DCMS and BIS. As the team responsible for the day-to-day management and delivery of the Action Plan, it will work together on a daily basis and meet regularly to monitor progress.

To ensure the delivery of the Action Plan, this team will prepare and monitor the project work-plan, direct the Task Groups and support the activities of the different programme groups.

## **Task Groups**

Task Groups will be charged with the delivery of the key work strands, as set out in the Action Plan. Individual Chairs have been appointed, by the Steering Group, for each Task Group. Membership of Task Groups has been agreed by the relevant Chair and the Steering Board.

### **Task Groups and Chairs**

- *Government Radio Policy Group* – **Government**
- *Technology and Equipment Group* – **Digital Radio UK**
- *Market Preparation Group* – **Digital Radio UK**
- *Coverage and Spectrum Planning* – **Ofcom**

## **Ministerial Group**

The Ministerial Group is to be chaired by the relevant Government Minister and membership will include representatives from industry and consumer groups. Its principle purpose is to inform Ministers of progress of the Action Plan and to provide a forum for discussion of the key issues.

- *Meet quarterly (first meeting 30 Nov 2010)*
- *Chaired by Minister*
- *Other members: representatives from the BBC, commercial radio broadcasters, community radio broadcasters, transmission providers, Ofcom, manufacturers, the automotive sector, retailers, consumers and Digital Radio UK.*



## **Stakeholders Group**

The Stakeholder Group, which will be chaired by a BIS official, will be open to a wide range on industry and related stakeholders. The principle purpose of this Group will be to inform external stakeholders of progress against the Action Plan and gather views on emerging findings.

- *Meet quarterly (first meeting 1 Nov 2010)*
- *Chaired by BIS initially*

## **Consumer Expert Group**

The Consumer Expert Group was established to inform the Digital Television Switchover Programme. It includes a wide range of consumer representatives including RNIB, British Wireless for the Blind Fund, the Voice of the Listener and Viewer and Citizens' Advice. The CEG has formally agreed to extend its role to consider the Digital Radio Switchover through a revision to its Terms of Reference.

- *CEG, with its extended Terms of Reference which include digital radio, to continue current format of quarterly meetings*

## 4. Work Plans

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### SECTION 4.1

#### GOVERNMENT RADIO POLICY

The key functions of the Government Radio Policy Group are to deliver a comprehensive assessment of the proposed Digital Radio Switchover and to develop Government policies to inform a future decision about whether and when to implement a Switchover.

	<b>TASK</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1.1	<b>PUBLISH ACTION PLAN</b>  Publish first Digital Radio Action Plan	Publish Action Plan  Updated quarterly	Q3 2010	<i>Completed</i>	
1.2	<b>REVIEW PROGRESS AGAINST CRITERIA</b>  Review of digital radio market – conducted by Ofcom	Publish first review  Annually thereafter	Q3 2010	<i>Completed</i>	
1.3	<b>CONSUMER IMPACT – INCLUDING ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE</b>  Respond to reports from the Consumer Expert Group.  Scope full range of human factor issues. Taking account of the analysis and any other available evidence, identify which, if any, listeners would be disproportionately disadvantaged by the radio switchover and how appropriate provisions and services should be made, for example, through a Help Scheme.	Response  Report	Q4 2010  Q2 2012	<i>Completed</i>	
1.4	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>  Carry-out an impact assessment of the options and timings of the	Set terms of reference	Q4 2010	<i>Completed</i>	



	<p>Radio Switchover. This will include, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the costs and benefits of any interventions to enable the switching the migration of all national and large local radio stations to DAB and alternative uses for the analogue spectrum vacated after the Radio Switchover;</li> <li>the rural impact of implementing the Digital Radio Switchover;</li> <li>Impact on energy consumption of a Switchover; and</li> <li>Environmental impact of analogue receiver disposal following Switchover.</li> </ul>	<p>First Report to Ministers</p> <p>Review report</p>	<p>Q4 2011</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	
1.5	<p><b>EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p>Identify the impact of the Radio Switchover on the Government's current civil contingencies policy and where appropriate agree changes in policy.</p>	<p>Produce Guidance</p>	<p>Q1 2011</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	
1.6	<p><b>DEFINE TARGET FOR DAB COVERAGE AT SWITCHOVER</b></p> <p>Determine and agree the target level of DAB coverage in the UK post-Switchover.</p>	<p>Decision</p>	<p>Q3 2011</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	
1.7	<p><b>ASSESS COSTS OF DAB COVERAGE BUILD-OUT</b></p> <p>Taking account of the recommendations from the Coverage and Spectrum Planning Group establish and agree the division of costs for DAB build-out to match FM.</p>	<p>Review</p>	<p>Q4 2011</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	
1.8	<p><b>COMPLIANCE TESTING REGIME</b></p> <p>Ensure that a compliance testing regime is established which provides an open and transparent framework for testing consumer reception equipment against the agreed technical specifications which deliver the minimum receiver requirements.</p>	<p>Agree testing regime</p>	<p>Q4 2011</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p><i>Agreement to set up independent testing facility at the DTG.</i></p>

1.9	<b>HELPScheme</b>  To make a decision on the case for a Digital Radio Helpscheme, and determine where it might apply and how it could be administered.	Report	Q2 2012		
1.10	<b>ADVISE ON THE SCOPE AND ROLE OF ANALOGUE SERVICES AFTER SWITCHOVER</b>  Assess the role and character of the small local and community stations remaining on FM and make recommendations on the future regulatory regimes.	Initial Report Ongoing	Q3 2012		
1.11	<b>ISSUES RELATING TO NON-DOMESTIC RADIOS</b>  Provide guidance on digital conversion for non-domestic use in public bodies. Identify specific issues which relate to radios used for education, health (hospitals) prisons and in the workplace (including in-vehicle). Liaise closely with other Government departments.	Produce Guidance	Q2 2013		
1.12	<b>MARKET REVIEW</b>  Conduct a review of market readiness for Radio switchover, as set out in Section 33 of the Digital Economy Act.	Publish review	Q2 2013		
1.13	<b>IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES TO THE SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT REGIME</b>  Identify and makes any changes to the multiplex licence regime which are pertinent to the Switchover, such as those set out in Section 35 of the Digital Economy Act 2010.	Review	Q3 2013		
1.14	<b>PUBLISH TRANSITION AND RADIO SWITCHOVER PLAN</b>  Agree a transition plan, setting out the means under which the Switchover could be achieved. The plan will include criteria which will be applied to determine which stations switch over.	Report	Q4 2013		



1.15	<b>MONITOR REGULATORY FRAMEWORK</b>  Ensure there is an appropriate statutory and regulatory framework for the Digital Radio Switchover at both national and EU level.	Review	Ongoing	<i>Ongoing</i>	
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## SECTION 4.2

**TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT**

The Technology and Equipment Group work will focus primarily on consumer equipment, including both domestic and in-vehicle radios. The priorities in this area are the usability of devices for all listeners and the development of a set of common specifications to provide quality assurance to consumers. Due to the importance of in-vehicle digital conversion there will be a specific sub-group which will look at the barriers to take-up and conversion options.

	<b>TASK</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
2.1	<p><b>DEVELOP CORE SET OF MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC RECEIVERS</b></p> <p>Define minimum radio receiver requirements in order to develop the technical specifications for equipment for use with digital radio transmissions in the UK, which can be tested for compliance against specified test suites, and which are capable of underpinning any future kitemarking scheme.</p> <p>Core specifications, will be based upon WorldDMB Profile 1 and will include discussions around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital codecs included in devices</li> <li>• Inclusion of FM</li> <li>• Size of DLS (screen for providing data)</li> <li>• Receiver performance / sensitivities</li> <li>• Consumer upgrade mechanisms</li> <li>• Accessibility / usability issues</li> </ul>	<p>Report</p> <p>Reviewed annually</p>	Q4 2010	<i>Ongoing</i>	<p><i>Report on functional specifications due in Dec 2010</i></p> <p><i>Performance/ sensitivities specifications to be developed by Q3 2011</i></p>





2.2	<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS FOR TECHNICAL CHANGES</b></p> <p>Agree a process for monitoring and communications on technical issues affecting DAB equipment such as changes to bit-rates, Electronic Programme Guides and the reconfiguration of multiplexes.</p>	Report	Q4 2010	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Due December 2010</i>
2.3	<p><b>ANALYSE ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES</b></p> <p>In light of any recommendations by the Consumer Expert Group, consider the specific accessibility / usability needs of people with disabilities and older people, and identify viable solutions.</p>	Review Review	Q4 2010 Q2 2012	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Due December 2010</i>
2.4	<p><b>DEVELOP SET OF OPTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC RECEIVERS</b></p> <p>Make recommendations on additional optional / advanced radio receiver specifications, which would provide “best practice” should optional technology be installed. This is likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WorldDMB Profiles 2 and 3</li> <li>• Electronic programme guide</li> <li>• Integrated station guide</li> </ul>	Report Reviewed annually	Q2 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	
2.5	<p><b>PRODUCT TESTING AND SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Agree a conformance testing regime to test consumer reception equipment for compliance with the agreed technical specifications and make recommendations on the appropriate level of testing to be applied to products</p>	Recommendations to Government	Q2 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	

	sold in the UK.				
2.6	<b>REPORT ON FUTURE ENERGY CONSUMPTION</b>  Consider future energy consumption of digital radio receivers, taking account of development in functionality and technology.	Report	Q4 2011		
2.7	<b>ASSESSMENT OF DAB ADAPTERS</b>  Analyse and make recommendations on the potential market for, and implementation of, converters for domestic analogue radio receivers and the specifications for these devices.	Report	Q1 2012		
2.8	<b>REPORT ON ROLE OF OTHER DIGITAL PLATFORMS</b>  Monitor and review the development of other delivery mechanisms for digital radio, including the internet, digital TV and mobile communications and make recommendations on how to use these technologies and the required infrastructure to drive take-up of digital radio and any impact on the minimum specifications and a kitemarking scheme.	Report	Q1 2012		
2.9	<b>REPORT ON DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT</b>  Give clear guidance to manufacturers (including car radio manufacturers) and retailers on their responsibilities within the European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) on the disposal and recycling of redundant devices and identify strategies to reduce levels of equipment disposed of or recycled. Commission research into small WEEE devices and	Report	Q2 2012		



	incorporate findings into the marketing strategy.				
<b>IN- VEHICLE SUB-GROUP</b>					
2.10	<b>TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL SERVICES</b>  Report on the impact of the analogue switch-off of national networks on providers of traffic and travel services, review the options for the continuation of FM services following switchover and ensure the development of a DAB replacement for analogue traffic services.	1 <sup>st</sup> Report	Q2 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	
2.11	<b>DEVELOP SET OF MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS FOR IN-VEHICLE RECEIVERS</b>  Define a minimum receiver specification for in-vehicle receivers in the UK, likely to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of full WorldDMB Profile 1</li> <li>• Mobile receiver performance</li> <li>• In-car functionality and driver distractions</li> <li>• Aerial configurations</li> </ul>	Decision	Q3 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	
2.12	<b>AGREE AERIAL / RECEIVER SENSITIVITY LEVELS</b>  Through dialogue with the Coverage and Spectrum Planning Group, ensure that developments in receiver and aerial configurations and reception correspond with the planning model for field strengths in coverage build-out.	Report	Q3 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	

2.13	<p><b>DAB ADAPTERS SPECIFICATIONS</b></p> <p>Review the implementation and barriers to in-vehicle DAB converters, the safety issues surrounding these devices and the interfaces between device and vehicle. Develop a set of minimum specifications for converters, ensuring the standardisation of technologies.</p>	Report	Q4 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	
2.14	<p><b>REVIEW PROGRESS OF IN-VEHICLE CONVERSIONS</b></p> <p>Identify and agree the mechanisms for recording vehicle data and set up a database for matching existing vehicle models with the appropriate conversion equipment. Review progress with longer-term market modelling where appropriate. Monitor in-vehicle progress in meeting the Switchover criteria, with a particular focus on the position of commercial vehicles to ensure they are not left behind.</p>	Ongoing  Initial report	Q2 2012	<i>Ongoing</i>	
2.15	<p><b>APPROVED INSTALLATION</b></p> <p>Ensure conversion specifications are developed which allow car dealers and retailers to develop installation services. Report on the need and mechanisms for training approved installers of DAB in-vehicle receivers with external aerials.</p>	Report	Q1 2013	<i>Ongoing</i>	
2.16	<p><b>CONSUMER ADVICE</b></p> <p>Assess the need for a kitemark for in-vehicle radios and adapters, and for identifying compatible devices. Consider dealer and consumer advice for both dealerships and for</p>	Report	Q1 2013	<i>Ongoing</i>	



	the used-vehicle market, with reference to the EU Consumer Protection Regulations. Examine the role for retailers of in-vehicle accessories.				
2.17	<p><b>EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL STANDARDS</b></p> <p>Monitor and review technical standards developments within WorldDMB and coordinate with work being undertaken in other countries ensuring that, wherever possible, agreed international standards are implemented.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	<i>This task is also being undertaken by the main TEG group</i>

## SECTION 4.3

**MARKET PREPARATION**

The Market Preparation Group will develop and co-ordinate a coherent cross-industry strategy (broadcasters, manufacturers and retailers) to raise awareness and understanding of digital radio, of Digital Radio Switchover with the public and with key trade audiences, and to develop a monitoring and research strategy.

	<b>TASK</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
3.1	<p><b>MONITORING MARKET READINESS</b></p> <p>The Monitoring and Research sub-group will develop mechanisms for regular monitoring and reporting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attitudes (to include awareness, understanding, conversion and intention to convert by audience) with Ofcom</li> <li>• Sales (cross-platform - GfK)</li> <li>• Coverage (Coverage &amp; Spectrum Planning Group)</li> <li>• Listening (RAJAR)</li> <li>• In-vehicle conversion (with Ofcom and SMMT)</li> <li>• Campaign development (working with BBC)</li> </ul>	Outline plan	Q4 2010	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Due December 2010</i>
3.2	<p><b>CONSUMER PROPOSITION</b></p> <p>Working with industry, set out a compelling consumer proposition for digital radio, including benefits, consistent description of the range of services, functionality and receivers.</p>	Publish document	Q2 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	



	<p>ii) Devise and implement a communications plan aimed at non-domestic users of radio, such as businesses and workplaces.</p> <p>The Plan to include (non-exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development and distribution of retail point of sales materials and training for retailers (when appropriate)</li> <li>• Non-domestic use (e.g. hotels/B&amp;Bs, private landlords, factories)</li> <li>• Company vehicle schemes, commercial vehicle operators, fleet managers, car/vehicle purchasers and owners</li> <li>• Vehicle trade audiences (e.g. car dealers, independent garages, vehicle installers, vehicle-related retailers).</li> </ul>				
3.4	<p><b>AGREE AND IMPLEMENT UK DIGITAL RADIO MARK SCHEME</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree a UK digital radio mark</li> <li>• Develop a plan for how the logo should be licensed, managed and policed</li> <li>• Launch mark to public</li> <li>• Develop a plan for licensing use of the mark on products, trained installers' services and trained retail staff</li> </ul>	<p>Decision</p> <p>Plan for mark</p>	<p>Q4 2010</p> <p>Q2 2011</p> <p>Q3 2011</p> <p>Q4 2011</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	





	quantity and quality of approved installers for vehicles, and for the development of a certification scheme.				
3.8	<p><b>DEFINE SUPPLY CHAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR SWITCHOVER</b></p> <p>Assess and plan for ensuring the availability of the necessary quantity of digital radio equipment all over the UK throughout the supply chain (from manufacturer to retail).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Initial review</p>	Q1 2013		
3.9	<p><b>MESSAGING GRID</b></p> <p>The Messaging Sub-Group to develop an agreed strategic messaging grid with the lines to take on issues surrounding Digital Radio Switchover.</p>	<p>First grid agreed</p> <p>Review monthly</p>	Ongoing	<i>Completed</i>	



## SECTION 4.4

### COVERAGE AND SPECTRUM PLANNING

Detailed coverage planning is needed to inform policy development and the implementation of Radio Switchover. A dedicated Coverage Planning Group has been formed, under the chairmanship of Ofcom, to consider a wide range of coverage issues and make recommendation to Ministers.

	<b>TASK</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
4.1	<b>FREQUENCY AND MULTIPLEX ALIGNMENT</b>  Make recommendations on changes to the coverage area of multiplexes and re-organise the frequencies allocated to DAB.	Recommendations to feed into 4.2	Q4 2010	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Agreed Sept 2010</i>
4.2	<b>DAB COVERAGE POST-SWITCHOVER</b>  Determine the current level of FM; including defining what listeners determine is an appropriate signal quality on FM. Make recommendations on the build-out of DAB coverage so that it is equivalent to existing FM coverage.	Consultation  Final Report	Q2 2011  Q4 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Timing of consultation changed to reflect wider consultation scope. Report rescheduled due to consultation process</i>
4.3	<b>SPECTRUM EFFICENCY</b>  To consider and identify future uses for the MW spectrum and any vacated FM spectrum.	Report	Q2 2012		
4.4	<b>AGREE SWITCHOVER TRANSITION PLAN</b>  Agree a plan for the transition for stations migrating from analogue.	Report	Q2 2013		

## SECTION 4.5

**PROJECT CO-ORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT**

Successful implementation of the Digital Radio Switchover programme will only be achieved through close Government-Industry co-operation. The Radio Switchover is a complex and large activity and we need to ensure that there are proper accountability and control mechanisms. The 'Programme Management Team' will provide direction and co-ordination of the Action Plan both within and outside of Government. This will include commissioning and delivery of reports, reviewing progress against key milestones and disseminating information to key stakeholders.

	<b>TASK</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>TIMING</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
5.1	<b>SECURE PRINCIPAL GROUP SUPPORT</b>  Secure commitment from the Government Digital Radio Group and the Stakeholders Groups to the Action Plan.	Approve Action Plan	Q2 2010	<i>Completed</i>	
5.2	<b>PROJECT GOVERNANCE</b>  Establish Project Steering Board. Establish Project Team, including management and reporting structures.	Terms of Reference Terms of Reference	Q3 2010 Q3 2010	<i>Completed</i> <i>Completed</i>	
5.3	<b>SET UP TASK GROUPS</b>  Set up, including agreeing terms of reference, Task Groups to take forward specific areas of work.	Terms of Reference	Q3 2010	<i>Completed</i>	
5.4	<b>ESTABLISH REPORTING FRAMEWORK</b>  Agree regular reporting framework and reviews against key milestones.	Terms of Reference	Q3 2010	<i>Completed</i>	
5.5	<b>IDENTIFY FUNDING CONSTRAINTS</b>  Quantify and address any funding restraints which might hinder the work of the Task Groups.	Report	Q2 2011	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Rescheduled to Q4 2010 to take account of work on division of costs for</i>



					<i>coverage build-out</i>
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# Appendix A: Terms of Reference

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## GOVERNMENT RADIO POLICY GROUP

### Purpose

The **Government Radio Policy Group (GPG)** work strand will provide a focal point for work with Government Departments, Devolved Administrations and public bodies, for the development of future government policy on Digital Radio Switchover.

### Objectives

- To conduct a comprehensive impact assessment of the Digital Radio Switchover;
- Identify any necessary changes to the regulatory regimes for radio;
- Determine the case for a digital radio help scheme; and
- Agree a DAB coverage plan, including how the costs for further build-out will be met.

### Membership

The GPG will be chaired by DCMS who will be responsible for the delivery of the work strands. A formal group, made up of officials from across government, will meet once a quarter to discuss general issues and progress against the key activities. However, the majority of the work strands will be delivered in smaller sub-groups with the relevant Departments and Agencies for each issue.

### Mode of Operation

1. The GPG will meet quarterly.
2. The Chair will report as required by the Action Plan, and the secretariat will be provided by the Programme Management Team.



## TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT GROUP

### Purpose

The **Technology and Equipment Group** (TEG) will identify, investigate, report and make recommendations on the technology and equipment issues related to the Digital Radio Switchover.

### Objectives

- Develop a set of minimum specifications for domestic digital radio receivers and technology;
- Develop a set of minimum specifications for in-vehicle radios including both line-fit and adapters;
- Develop a strategy for quality assurance of digital radio receivers, to include testing of devices against agreed common specifications;
- Advise on the design and implementation of receivers which are accessible to all listeners;
- Advise on the implementation of the WorldDMB Profile 1 and co-ordinate future discussions with WorldDMB on European specifications;
- Report on the energy efficiency of digital radio receivers and, where appropriate, mechanisms to reduce the energy consumption; and
- Report and advise on the disposal of analogue receivers to ensure compliance with UK and European regulations.

### Membership

This Group will be chaired by Digital Radio UK. Membership of the TEG is by invitation of the Chair, and the Group should include representatives from the manufacturers, silicon providers, retailers and consumer groups.

Membership of sub-groups such as the In-Vehicle Group may be limited or expanded beyond the main Group depending upon the topic under consideration. Membership of an individual sub-group will be by invitation of the sub-group leader in consultation with the TEG Chairman.

**Mode of Operation**

1. The TEG will meet regularly. It may also set up specific sub-groups to carry out elements of the work.
2. The Group will report as required by the Action Plan, and the secretariat will be provided by the Programme Management Team.





## MARKET PREPARATION GROUP

### Purpose

The **Market Preparation Group** (MPG) will develop and co-ordinate a cross-industry strategy to raise public and industry awareness and understanding of digital radio, and a subsequent Digital Radio Switchover.

### Objectives

- To develop and make recommendations on the implementation of a strategic marketing and communication plan that raises awareness and understanding of digital radio, supports the industry timeline of Digital Radio Switchover in 2015, and ensures that the needs of groups less likely to switch are addressed;
- To determine and action what research or information is required to enable Government and Industry to develop understanding of the likely market conditions pre, post and during a Digital Radio Switchover, working with key stakeholders such as Ofcom and BBC;
- To consider and agree appropriate deployment of a common UK labelling scheme for digital radio, and related products and services;
- To devise and make recommendations on the implementation of a communications plan for non-domestic users of radio (to include vehicle operators, car dealers, schools, etc.);
- To identify any industry training needs (retailers, installers, engineers, etc.) and possible means of implementation;
- To devise a communications campaign to support a possible Help Scheme;
- To ensure the appropriate prioritisation of the work of the Group.

### Membership

This Group will be chaired by Digital Radio UK. Membership of the Market Preparation Group is by invitation of the Chair, but will include representatives of the broadcasters, manufacturers, retailers and consumer groups.

### Mode of Operation

1. The Market Preparation Group will meet regularly. It may also set up specific sub-groups to carry out elements of the work.
2. The Group will report as required by the Action Plan, and the secretariat will be provided by the Programme Management Team.

## COVERAGE AND SPECTRUM PLANNING GROUP

### Purpose

Detailed coverage planning is needed to inform policy development and the implementation of Radio Switchover.

The dedicated Coverage and Spectrum Planning Group, under the chairmanship of Ofcom, will consider a wide range of coverage issues and make recommendation to Ministers.

The Group will be responsible for developing a range of options to support an increase in existing DAB coverage, with a specific view on matching current FM coverage. It will also liaise as required with the other working groups as part of the Digital Radio Action Plan.

The Digital Radio Action Plan sets out the key tasks for the Coverage and Spectrum Planning Group in the lead-up to and implementation of the Radio Switchover.

### Objectives

- Determine the current level of FM; including defining what listeners determine is an appropriate signal quality on FM:
  - *For national and large local services define usable coverage of households and roads and publish the results for consultation.*
- Make recommendations on changes to the coverage area of multiplexes and re-organise the frequencies allocated to DAB:
  - *Based on requests from multiplex operators consult on and implement changes to existing licensed areas*
  - *Produce plan to extend further existing licensed areas to cover white spaces, including the licensing of new multiplexes where necessary*
- Make recommendations on the build-out of DAB coverage so that it matches existing FM coverage:
  - *Define appropriate field strengths and other parameters necessary to deliver robust DAB coverage*
  - *Identify the achievable coverage for DAB services from the selected sites using the latest agreed coverage prediction model, including specifying the geographically and terrain constraints which must be considered in DAB planning*
  - *For BBC network services and Classic FM develop options for transmitter plans to match existing FM coverage of households and roads as far as practicable*
  - *For large local services (BBC and commercial) develop options for transmitter plans to match existing FM coverage of households and roads within agreed editorial areas as far as practicable*
- To consider and identify future uses for the MW spectrum and any vacated FM spectrum.
  - *Future use of VHF Band III to consider use for small-scale FM services and digital radio services*



- Agree a plan for the transition for stations migrating off analogue
  - *Advise Secretary of State on criteria for determining which stations should switch-off analogue coverage*
  - *Ofcom to implement the Secretary of State's decision*

## **Membership**

The Group will be chaired by Ofcom. Membership will be by invitation from the Chair but should normally comprise those organisations which are responsible for radio spectrum planning and co-ordination in the UK. This will include representatives from the BBC, Ofcom, DCMS and BIS. It may also include subcontractors who are working directly for one or more of the Group's members.

## **Mode of Operation**

1. The Group will meet regularly. It may also set up a sub-group to carry out elements of the work.
2. The Group will set up an Advisory Group, consisting of multiplex operators and Digital Radio UK, but all decisions and responsibility for producing reports rest with the Chair of the Coverage and Spectrum Planning Group
3. The Group will prepare and regularly review a Project Plan. This will comprise objectives, timescales and deliverables which will be linked to the requirements of the Action Plan.

## STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

### Purpose

The **Stakeholder Group** provides the forum for a wide range of external stakeholders from industry and other related organisations to debate progress against the work strands of the Action Plan and to gather views on emerging findings.

### Objectives

- To collect ideas and opinions from interested parties in the work of the Action Plan;
- To give a cross-sector perspective on the progress of the work strands and any other work towards the Digital Radio Switchover; and
- To provide high-level advice to the Steering Board and Ministerial Group.

### Membership

The Stakeholder Group will be chaired by BIS. Membership will be drawn from organisations with a valid interest in the Digital Radio Switchover, these will include: broadcasters, content providers, manufacturers, retailers, network operators, the motor industry and consumer groups.

### Mode of Operation

1. The Stakeholder Group will meet quarterly.
2. The Chair will report to the Steering Board and the Ministerial Group as appropriate, and the secretariat will be provided by the PMT.



## MINISTERIAL GROUP

### Purpose

The **Ministerial Group** will be chaired by the relevant Government Minister. Its principal purpose will be to inform the Minister of progress of the Action Plan and to provide a forum for discussion of the key issues.

### Objectives

- To provide updates to the Minister on the work strands within the Action Plan;
- To allow key stakeholders to raise any issues or concerns with the Minister.

### Membership

The Ministerial Group will be chaired by the relevant Government Minister and will include representatives from the BBC, commercial radio broadcasters, community radio broadcasters, transmission providers, Ofcom, manufacturers, the automotive sector, retailers, consumers and Digital Radio UK.

### Mode of Operation

1. The Ministerial Group will meet quarterly.
2. The secretariat will be provided by the Programme Management Team.
3. Papers will be sent out 1 week before each meeting and comprehensive minutes circulated within 1 week of the meeting.

## CONSUMER EXPERT GROUP

### Purpose

The Digital Television **Consumer Expert Group** (CEG) was convened by the Government in June 2003 to give Ministers advice on the issues for consumers as the UK switches to digital television. They have since extended their remit to include digital radio and use of the internet.

The following terms of reference have been agreed between CEG members, the Department for Culture Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

### Objectives

- To advise Government on:
  - the issues arising for consumers of the implementation of the Digital Radio Upgrade programme;
  - the ways of communicating the principles and impact of the Digital Radio Upgrade, including the timetable, to consumers
- To write any reports that are deemed necessary to fulfil this remit.
- Government will give due consideration to and respond to the reports and other advice received from the CEG.

### Membership

The CEG includes representatives from Royal National Institute for Blind People, Age Concern, Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations, National Consumer Council, Rural Community Councils, International Longevity Centre, Voice of the Listener and Viewer, Sense, WaveLength, Royal National Institute for Deaf People, TAG, Citizen Advice, Action with Communities in Rural England and the Communications Consumer Panel.

### Mode of Operation

1. The CEG will meet quarterly.
2. The secretariat will be provided by DCMS.



## Appendix B: Glossary

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**DIGITAL RADIO:** When digital radio is referred to in this document it includes all digital platforms on which radio can be consumed, including DAB, digital television, the internet and mobile phones. Of these platforms, DAB is the most popular with 62% of all digital listening, followed by digital TV with 18% and the internet with 11%.

**DIGITAL RADIO SWITCHOVER:** Digital Radio Switchover is the point at which all national and large local stations broadcasting on both DAB and analogue frequencies will cease to broadcast on analogue, and small local and community stations will populate the vacated FM spectrum.

**DAB:** DAB stands for Digital Audio Broadcasting which is the digital radio broadcast technology adopted in the UK. DAB is one of the family of EUREKA 147 technologies developed as part of a European Union research project which began in 1987.

**DAB+:** DAB+ is a variant of DAB which uses a more advanced audio coding technology which provides greater capacity on digital multiplexes.

**ANALOGUE RADIO:** The majority of radio stations in the UK are carried on analogue. Analogue radio is traditionally broadcast on the following bands:

- Medium Frequency Band (MF, also known as Medium Wave);
- Low Frequency Band (LF, also known as Long Wave) – both MF and LF use a technology called AM (amplitude modulation); and
- VHF Band II – this is used for broadcasting services using a technology known as FM (frequency modulation).

**MULTIPLEX:** A multiplex consists of a number of digital services bundled together on a single frequency in a given transmission area.

**WORLDDMB:** The WorldDMB Forum is an international non-governmental organisation whose objective is to promote, harmonise and co-ordinate the implementation of DAB Digital services based on the Eureka 147 DAB system. WorldDMB's three most well-known standards are the original digital radio standard DAB, the recently developed additional radio standard DAB+ and the multimedia/video standard DMB. It is dedicated to encouraging international co-operation and co-ordination between sound and data broadcasters, network providers, manufacturers, governments and official bodies, thus gaining consensus for the smooth introduction of DAB based services.

**WORLD DMB PROFILE 1:** provides the mandatory and recommended features for a standard radio receiver, including compatibility with frequencies, with digital and analogue technologies, standards for text display and traffic and travel services.

**WORLDDMB PROFILE 2:** provides the mandatory and recommended features for a rich media radio receiver with a colour screen display of at least 320 x 240 pixels. These include text presentation, EPG and slideshow features.

**WORLDDMB PROFILE 3:** provides for the mandatory and recommended features for a multipurpose receiver with a colour screen display capable of rendering video, which includes video decoding.

**ELECTRONIC PROGRAMME GUIDE:** An Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) is an on-screen guide to scheduled radio programmes, allowing the listener to navigate, select and record content.

**INTEGRATED STATION GUIDE:** An Integrated Station Guide (ISG) lists the digital and analogue stations available together on the screen of a digital radio device.

**WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) DIRECTIVE:** The WEEE Directive requires manufacturers and retailers to take responsibility for the recycling and disposal of electronic and electrical equipment. Consumers can, for example, return their analogue devices to a store. The exact responsibilities for industry and options for consumers will be researched as part of the Action Plan and guidance provided.







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