

25/6/2005

Dear Ms Kelly

I have just learnt of your enquiry into Digital TV and the fact that analogue TV is to be turned off in 2008. I wish to make the following submission to your enquiry:

1. Due to the life of an analogue TV set, turning off the signal in 2008 will leave millions of good TVs unusable. I am aware that set top boxes are available but these are expensive if one needs to be purchased for each TV tuner one owns. My family have 3 TVs or 4 if the analogue TV card in my PC is included. We also own 3 VCRs and one DVD recorder each with an analogue tuner within. A total of the 8 set top boxes required for my family is not a realistic proposition so a number of these items will have to be discarded. This would be a waste of resources.
2. Why can you still buy analogue TV sets, as well as VCRs, HDD and DVD recorders all with analogue receivers built in, when analogue is to be phased out in three years. The public (including myself) is obviously not aware of the Government proposal or they would not buy these devices.
3. If analogue is to be phased out, the government must inform the public and stop the importing of analogue receivers.
4. Having viewed both analogue and digital I see no reason to change to digital. Wide-screen and a sharper picture is not a reason for me to discard my analogue receivers. I'm also more than happy with the content on analogue TV.
5. I have not seen stand alone digital TVs for sale. Why can't these be purchased?

In summary I want analogue TV to remain indefinitely. I'm happy to see both digital and analogue signals being broadcast concurrently. If analogue is to be phased out, a reasonable period of say ten years overlap should be available. During this ten years, analogue receivers should not be available for purchase. Preferably both signals should remain as I see no advantage to change, only added expense.