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BBC HD in DVB-S2 move

JUNE 2, 2011 20.09 EUROPE/LONDON BY JULIAN CLOVER



The BBC is to switch the transmission system for its satellite HD broadcasts from 28 degrees East from DVB-S to DVB-S2. It means that owners of some Freesat boxes – or those using a standard satellite receiver – may have to retune their boxes in order to continue receiving BBC One HD and the BBC HD channel.

In a [blog post](#) [Alix Pryde](#), director, [BBC Distribution](#) explained the BBC's principles meant the BBC was required to use the available spectrum in the most efficient way possible. Using DVB-S2 will leave the BBC with additional capacity should it choose to use it.

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In August 2009 the BBC came in for criticism after a change of encoding software resulted in a series of criticisms from some viewers over the quality of its pictures. At the time the BBC's acting controller of distribution **Graham Plumb said he believed people were focusing on reduction in bandwidth**, rather than the improved processing power of the codecs.

Launched in the spring of 2006, BBC HD is one of the longest-serving HD channels in Europe, and as such had continued to use the older DVB-S. When BBC One HD launched in November 2010 it also went with DVB-S.

Sky, cable and DTT viewers will be unaffected by the changes.



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FILED UNDER: **EDITOR'S CHOICE, NEWSLINE, SATELLITE**
TAGGED WITH: **BBC HD, DVB-S2**
EDITED: JUNE 6, 2011 09:47



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