



FPRA
FEDERATION OF PRIVATE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

P O Box 10271
EPPING
CM16 9DB

Telephone Number:
0871 200 3324

E-mail: info@fpra.org.uk
Website: www.fpra.org.uk

The Voice of Leaseholders

The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd.
PO Box 10271
Epping, CM16 9DB
E-mail. info@fpra.org.uk.
Web. www.fpra.org.uk.
Main Telephone Number: 0871 200 3324

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday 8th October 2009

Flat-dwellers face bigger challenges connecting to Digital!

National leaseholders group urge flat owners to challenge managing agents to avoid blank screens at Switchover

Following a meeting of Housing experts earlier this week at Digital UK, Federation Chairman, Bob Smytherman is now encouraging leaseholders to make the most of online guides and checklists to ensure that their block of flats is actually ready to receive digital signals when the analogue signals are switched off in their area.

Commenting ahead of the Granada Switchover next month, Bob Smytherman who represents leaseholders on the Housing Expert group said:

"The analysis undertaken by officials at Digital UK recently in the Granada region shows that some of the biggest obstacles when preparing for the Switchover are being experienced by people living in blocks of flats that share a communal TV aerial and therefore rely on managing agents and / or landlords to make the necessary improvements to TV aerials or to provide new systems altogether."

."We have been increasingly concerned that some managing agents are either charging inflated amounts for unwanted new TV systems or failing to act on vital upgrades altogether."

Bob added:

"Digital switchover is coming to Granada in the next few weeks and to the remaining areas before 2012 and we anticipate that there will be some capacity issues with installers as areas move closer to Switchover which could drive up cost or worse still meaning many blocks of flats will simply not be able to receive TV signals at Switchover."

"I would urge anyone living in flat unsure about the readiness of their block to contact their property management company and if they are still concerned contact Digital UK who has produced dedicated guides for flat-owners and property managers on their new-look web-site to help ensure residents and tenants are fully prepared.

Ends

Media Contact:-

Bob Smytherman

Chairman

Mobile: 07867 562538

Direct email: Bob@fpra.org.uk

Chief Executive: Robert Levene

Main Telephone Number:

0871 200 3324

Email:robertlevene@fpra.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Digital UK Research and Communications housing and property report for Granada is attached for information

Digital UK new-look Property Managers' website has been launched at <http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers>

Main benefits of the new site:

- Greatly improved navigation with the use of drop-down menus to clearly signpost the more detailed information in the site.
- Added feature of the postcode checker

- Key areas of information are now highlighted from the home page, including all the information that we have tailored to the type of property you are responsible for
- FAQs and Resources present across all pages, which have been tailored to tie in with the information on the page
- The copy has been revised and refreshed to bring it up to date and make it much easier to read.

The FPRA is a non-political, not-for-profit advice, support and lobbying organisation for our members who include private residential leaseholders, tenants' and residents' associations and residential management companies as well as those companies where the leaseholders together own the freehold of their own residential block.

This email was sent from The Federation of Private Residents Associations Ltd.
A Non Profit Company limited by guarantee. Registered number 1992130
FPRA only advises member associations - we cannot and do not act for them.
Opinions and statements offered orally and in writing are given free of charge and in good faith and as such are offered without legal responsibility on the part either of the maker or of FPRA Ltd.

Telephone Number; 0871 200 3324 (normal national rates apply)
E-mail. info@fpra.org.uk.
Web. www.fpra.org.uk.
Direct email. Bob@fpra.org.uk