

Consumer Focus news, work and energy price comparison update

Switch safely to Digital TV

Consumer Focus Wales has joined forces with other leading consumer organisations to ensure people don't pay over the odds as Wales gets ready to switch to digital TV.

The campaign, *Switch Safely to Digital TV*, was launched in Swansea by Consumer Focus Wales, Consumer Direct and Citizens Advice Bureau, in conjunction with Digital UK.

The Swansea area will be the first in Wales to go digital on August 12. Before switchover, Consumer Focus Wales also ran a mystery shopping survey to ensure consumers are getting the correct advice from the industry. A

group of consumers made calls to 116 repairers and aerial fitters around Wales to



The campaign was launched in Swansea on July 1

see what advice is being given out. The results will be available on July 16, and Consumer Focus Wales will work with Trading Standards to improve matters.

Rhys Evans, Deputy Senior Director of Consumer Focus

Wales, said: "Switchover is the biggest single consumer event of the year, but we don't want it to also become an opportunity for people to be misled, or to end up out of pocket."

Consumer Focus Wales has also worked with Digital UK, Consumer Direct and CAB on a poster campaign to raise awareness of where to get help and advice ahead of switchover. The poster will appear as

a newspaper advert, and in Citizens Advice Bureaux across Wales.

To find out when your area will be switching over, visit [Digital UK's](http://DigitalUK.com) website.

Forthcoming Events:

- **July 16— Consumer Focus Wales board meeting, Bryn-y-more Suite, Stradey Park Hotel, Furnace, Llanelli**
- **July 16—Results of Consumer Focus Wales' mystery shopping survey ahead of digital switchover published**

Consumer Focus Wales's monthly newsletter now features monthly energy price comparison data.

This month the data compares online tariffs for dual fuel direct debit and standard credit customers in North and South Wales, for the six major suppliers (cost per annum).

The purpose of this example is to show the differences between suppliers and the power of switching.

For more details on how you could switch, [click here](#)

News from Consumer Focus Wales

[Consumers warned about switchover rip offs](#)

Digital Spy, June 30

[Wales plans plastic bag tax](#)

Daily Post, June 29

[Welsh shoppers facing 15p plastic-bag charge](#)

Western Mail, June 29

[Proposal may mean 15p plastic bag fee](#)

BBC, June 29

[Rip-off warning at digital switch](#)

BBC, June 29

Monthly energy price comparison data (cost per annum)*

£/annum	British Gas	EDF	Npower	E.On	Scottish Power	Swalec
Direct Debit—Online Tariffs						
North Wales	£1036	£1091	£1076	£1062	£1105	£1086
South Wales	£1052	£1117	£1100	£1090	£1120	£1096
Standard Credit—Online Tariffs						
North Wales	£1110	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£1187
South Wales	£1127	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	£1198

* June 2009 data