



BBC 11 SD CHANNELS
CLOSED



The BBC has confirmed the closure of 11 standard definition channels broadcast on satellite in the UK from the 28 degrees East satellite neighbourhood.

The change took place in the early hours of Monday 8 January with the affected channels replaced by a 'channel closed' message. The caption will remain on-screen until late March when the channels will be removed from the EPG.

Channels affected are BBC One SD; BBC Two SD; BBC Three SD; BBC Four SD; CBBC SD; CBeebies SD; BBC News SD; BBC Scotland SD; BBC ALBA SD; BBC Parliament SD and Red Button 1 SD.

The BBC is maintaining a support network for viewers impacted by the change, and there is dedicated advice for Sky and Freesat viewers.

Sky is offering an upgrade for users of the Sky+ box – Sky Q viewers will have been automatically upgraded

– a help scheme is also available for certain Freesat viewers.

SHOWMAX PROMISES NEW
LOOK



COMCAST

Showmax is promising a brand-new look, new app, and entirely new product suite when it relaunches in the African market in February. A new partnership between Multichoice and Comcast's NBCUniversal and Sky was announced last year.

February will see the release of a record 21 Showmax Originals from four African countries, a revamped international content slate, and the continent's first standalone Premier League mobile streaming plan. More than 1,300 hours of new Showmax Originals are slated for release during 2024.

Comcast will ensure a pipeline of content from Universal Pictures, NBC, Peacock, Sky, DreamWorks Animation and Telemundo. Agreements have also been renewed with Banijay, BBC, eOne, Fremantle, HBO, ITV, Lionsgate, Paramount, Sony and Warner Bros. Discovery.

VODAFONE PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW HUB

Vodafone Ireland has partnered with Bang & Olufsen to design a fully integrated smart entertainment hub with Dolby Atmos sound.



BANG & OLUFSEN

TV PLAY is designed as an all-in-one smart entertainment hub and soundbar that also features Google Assistant voice commands and built-in sound designed by Bang & Olufsen, and NOW TV.

Dolby Atmos immersive audio has also been launched by Orange Spain and Finland's DNA.

A refreshed user interface offers personalised and immediate access over to 100+ live channels with HD, along with access to streaming apps like NOW TV, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+, RTÉ Player, Virgin Media Player and TG4 Player. The inclusion of NOW TV gives customers continued access to Sky-branded channels including Sky Atlantic, Sky Sports, & Sky Cinema.

AFRICAN MARKET SEES SURGE IN SUBSCRIBERS

A new report estimates the number of pay TV subscribers in Africa will climb by 12 million between 2023 and 2029. Digital TV Research says this will add and additional 7 million pay satellite TV subscribers and 5 million more pay DTT homes.

The pay total will reach 55 million by 2029, with satellite TV contributing 33 million and DTT 21 million. From the 43 million pay TV subscribers at end-2023, 26 million were satellite TV and 16 million DTT. ■