

ISLE OF MAN COUNTRY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016

The Communications Commission licenses and regulates telecommunications and broadcasting on the Isle of Man. As well as the key milestones set out below, the Commission has a continuous workload of issues in broadcasting and media that must be dealt with on a daily basis – for example, ensuring licence conditions are adhered to, handling changes in licensee ownership, and addressing consumer and inter-licensee complaints.

The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown Dependency centrally located in the Irish Sea between England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Communications Bill 2015

The Communications Bill is a priority for the Commission in order to provide a stable foundation for growth in the communications sector. The Commission is working with the Isle of Man Attorney General's Chambers to prepare this new communications legislation, intended to modernise the legal regime and to give the Commission the right powers to help the sectors involved develop and grow.

The new legislation is intended to help the Commission facilitate investment in advanced communications networks and services, as well as the development of indigenous media services, and to encourage new internet-based content provision.

The implications of the vote to leave the EU is also being considered in respect of the Island's Communication legislation.

Radio

The 3 Island radio stations 3FM, Energy FM and Manx Radio continue to provide coverage locally, with updated initiatives to ensure the content can also be accessed via the internet and catch up. The local radio stations receive very high listener numbers. A report has been commissioned to consider transmission options, including DAB, for the broadcast of local radio.

BBC DAB coverage is now 90% across the Island with good feedback from residents.

TV

In addition to existing satellite and DTT services, there is a limited IPTV service available with some local content.

Dr Carmel McLaughlin, Director
26 July 2016