

RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management

Channel Line-Up Policy

Version 13.0

5th December 2014

Introduction

1. The current Digital Terrestrial Television (“DTT”) platform consists of two DTT multiplexes, the Public Service Broadcasting Multiplexes (“the PSB Multiplexes”), established, maintained and operated by RTÉ as provided for at sections 114(1)(i) and 130 of the Broadcasting Act 2009. The PSB Multiplexes are operated as a single system.
2. The services provided on the PSB Multiplexes are marketed to consumers under the SAORVIEW brand name. SAORVIEW provides consumers near-universal free to air access to the range of television channels, radio stations and digital text services.
3. Each television, radio and data service (“Channel”) provided on DTT is allocated a Logical Channel Number (“LCN”).
4. This DTT Channel Line-Up Policy (“Policy”) governs the way in which LCNs are allocated to Channels on the PSB Multiplexes.
5. This Policy document is owned and issued by RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management is a unit established within RTÉ to manage the provision of DTT multiplexing, transmission and distribution services. This unit operates separately from and independently of the management of RTÉ’s television, radio and digital broadcasting services.
6. The objective of RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management is to apply this Policy in such a manner that adheres to the principles of being fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory to all channel providers and is for the long-term benefit of the DTT platform and in the interests of DTT consumers.
7. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will operate this Policy in compliance with any statutory requirements and/or regulations that may be issued by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI), the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) or other competent authority from time to time. If necessary this Policy will be amended to comply with such regulations.
8. After an LCN allocation has been made by RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management, the LCN continues to belong to RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management. RTÉ DTT Multiplex

Management reserves the right to move a Channel onto an alternative LCN in accordance with this Policy or under instruction from the Minister, the BAI, ComReg or other competent authority.

9. For the purposes of this Policy “lower LCNs” refers to lower channel numbers, i.e. smaller numbers in the channel list. Conversely, “higher LCNs” is used to refer to larger channel numbers in the channel list.

General Principles

10. Only Channels that RTÉ may broadcast on the PSB Multiplexes, in accordance with section 130 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, and where the appropriate requirement and/or designation has been made by the Minister, and for which there is a Multiplexing Service Agreement in place with RTÉ, may be allocated and occupy an LCN.
11. RTÉ recognises that the Code of Practice for the Placement of Television Services on the Saorview Platform issued by the BAI requires that prominence is accorded to certain channels currently RTÉ One, RTÉ Two, TG4, TV3 and 3e. RTÉ will operate the channel line up policy so as to accord such prominence.
12. Channels to which an LCN has been allocated prior to the publication of this Policy will keep their respective LCNs to the extent that such allocation remains consistent with this Policy.
13. Further LCNs will be allocated by RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management to new Channels that meet the requirements set out in this Policy within a maximum of three months of receiving a valid DTT LCN Request Notification Form.

Genres

14. Genres are the basis for the grouping of Channels on the DTT platform in order to assist viewer navigation of content. The genres available for the allocation of LCNs on the DTT platform and the number ranges in which they operate are contained within the Genre Table.

15. Genre Table

Genre	First LCN	Last LCN
General Entertainment	1	20
General Entertainment (Time Shift Channels)*	11	20
News and Information	21	30
Radio	200	250
Data Channels (not visible to viewers)	251	255

*General Entertainment (Time Shift Channels) is not a true genre but is a grouping within the General Entertainment genre

16. Additional genres may be allocated (or genres removed) as and when required according to demand. New genres may be created (or genres removed) where RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management believe there are compelling reasons for the introduction of a new genre.
17. Existing genres may be merged or removed where RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management believe there is a need to do so.
18. The LCN range (from the first LCN to the last LCN) for a genre may need to expand according to demand. In this instance, the number ranges for the next genre and all subsequent genres may be changed in order to accommodate the expansion of the range of the LCNs for the relevant genre.
19. In deciding the most appropriate genre for a Channel RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management may ask the Channel Provider for scheduling and event information and any other information that RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management considers relevant.
20. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will generally not allocate LCNs for test channels, unless, at its discretion, it considers it appropriate to do so.
21. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will not allocate LCN 0 or LCNs in the range of 800 to 999.

Listing of Channels

22. Any Channel Provider that intends to launch or change Channel(s) on the DTT platform should submit a DTT LCN Request Notification Form to RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management at least 3 months before the intended launch of the Channel. That notification must include the following information:

- a. Name of Channel,
- b. Name, Address and Contacts of the Channel Provider,
- c. Genre of Channel the Channel Provider believes best suits the Channel (this may not be the Genre allocated by RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management),
- d. a sample schedule for the Channel identifying any content which is a repeat of material broadcast on another channel operated by the Channel Provider or similarities with other channels being carried on the DTT platform by the Channel Provider,
- e. the average daily on-air hours for the Channel,
- f. a copy of the order under Section 130 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 permitting the broadcast of the Channel on the DTT platform, if not available at the time then a copy of the request to the Minister should be provided
- g. the intended launch date of the Channel,
- h. technical format including SD or HD status,
- i. 1 month EPG prior to launch, when available but definitely within 1 month prior to the launch
- j. And any other information that RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management considers relevant.

23. Channels will be allocated to the most appropriate genre at the sole discretion of RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management.

24. Channels will generally be allocated the lowest available vacant LCN within their relevant genre.

25. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management may give greater consideration (lower LCN) to channels requesting an LCN with substantially greater broadcasting hours in their daily/weekly schedule, for the long-term benefit of the DTT platform and in the interests of DTT consumers.

26. Where a lower LCN becomes available within a genre e.g. where a Channel leaves the platform, RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management may offer at their discretion the lower vacated LCN to the Channel at the next highest LCN within the genre. That Channel will have one week to accept in writing the new LCN. If the available LCN is accepted the process is repeated until there are no gaps available to offer in the LCN listings in the genre. If a Channel is offered a lower LCN and rejects the offer then the Channel at the next higher LCN will be offered the available LCN and so on until there are no gaps available to offer in the LCN listing in the genre. The timing of the actual reallocation is at the discretion of RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management;

in making a decision as to the time when changes to LCN positions should be implemented, RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will have regard to minimizing costs and disruption to viewers.

27. In order to improve navigation of Channels on the DTT platform RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management considers it in the best interest of the platform and consumers to group together the following Channels:

Time Shift Channels (such as +1 Channels) that are variants of Channels (“the parent Channels”) will be grouped in a separate block immediately following the block of parent channels and their LCN’s will mirror (as close a possible) the grouping of the respective parent Channels. For example, in the General Entertainment genre this would be RTÉ One +1 at LCN 11, RTÉ Two +1 at LCN 12, TV3 +1 at LCN 13 and TG4 +1 at LCN 14. If a new Channel (not a time shift Channel) requests an LCN in the General Entertainment genre and LCN 1 to 10 are occupied then the channel will be allocated the lowest time shift Channel LCN and the time shift Channels will be shuffled to higher available LCNs in the time shift Channels numbering range.

28. Where a Channel evolves by way of a significant change of content, it must complete a DTT LCN Request Notification Form and submit to RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management for a new LCN.

29. If RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management believes a Channel has changed significantly then RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management reserve the right to request a Channel Provider to complete a new DTT LCN Request Notification Form and submit to RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management for a new LCN. If the Channel Provider does not complete the DTT LCN Request Notification Form accurately the channel may be assigned the first available higher LCN in the genre that RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management deems most appropriate.

30. Where a new Channel is allocated a LCN which is presently in use, all effected Channels (higher than or equal to that LCN and within the genre) will be moved one higher LCN to facilitate the new Channel LCN allocation. All Channels being moved one LCN higher will be given two weeks to lodge any comment. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will review the comment against this Policy and make a final decision

and notify all involved. Again any channel re-shuffle / reposition will await the next scheduled national rescan to be implemented

31. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will consider at its discretion but subject always to the principles of this Policy requests to swap LCNs of two Channels provided by the same Channel Provider where the two Channels are of the same genre.
32. Schedule 1 sets out the allocation of Channels to LCNs within the genres as of the date of issue of this Policy.

General Conditions

33. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will not levy a charge for the allocation of a LCN to a Channel.
34. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management does not permit any trading or sale of LCN positions between Channel Providers. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management will not consent to any change of LCN positions where any consideration has passed between Channel Providers in respect of such an arrangement.
35. A Channel Provider may cease to make a Channel available on a LCN for a limited period of time without that Channel having been considered to have been removed from the platform and its LCN withdrawn provided that the Channel Provider notifies RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management of its intention to make the Channel available again within a period of 13 weeks from the point of temporary withdrawal and ensures that the Channel is available again within such period. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management reserves the right to withdraw the LCN from the Channel where the Channel Provider fails to resume transmission of the Channel within such period.
36. RTÉ DTT Multiplex Management reserves the right to review this Policy at any time.