

Patricia Harper

At least there's a solution for those who can't afford the move to digital – it's already been mooted that the government may give away free-to-view boxes. But what about those of us who would love to have a digital TV or (more to the point) radio but who can't GET digital? And I'm not talking about a bothy in Wales near Snowdon – I'm talking about thriving market towns like Marlborough in Wiltshire. We have no cable, no Channel 5, and no digital signal, and it irritates me to INCANDESCENCE that my licence fee is increasingly paying for programmes I can't watch, and for the BBC ads that trail those programmes, exhaustingly and exhaustively.

That 53% represents the low-hanging fruit, the households who can both afford and receive digital. The next phase will be much harder because the remaining fruit is hanging much higher. If the Government is serious about analogue switch-off in 2010, it needs to put money into upgrading the masts now; and if the BBC is serious about keeping its licence fee, it needs to spend its (our) millions on getting the signal to everyone instead of on programmes that only 53% can watch (but don't, apparently)