

Local Press Announcement

MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMITTER FOR RADIO 4 UK IN LONDON

London's new medium wave transmitter for Radio 4 UK will start operating on Thursday, 15 November. The transmitter is sited at the London Transport generating station in Lots Road, Chelsea, and will broadcast on 720 kilohertz, a wavelength of 417 metres.

Since the move of Radio 4 to long wave on 23 November 1978, the BBC has received a large number of complaints from people living in steel-framed blocks of flats in central London. The structure of these buildings prevents long wave signals from penetrating far into the rooms, so reception on portable radios with built-in aerials is very difficult. Nearly half-a-million people in London are in this situation and the BBC decided that a supplementary transmission on medium wave was necessary to bring the service to these listeners. Although Radio 4 vhf normally gives better reception than either long or medium wave, the vhf channel carries a number of educational services in place of the regular programmes on long wave.

The area over which the new station can provide satisfactory reception will be limited by interference from foreign transmitters using the same frequency. The medium waveband in Europe is extremely congested and all frequencies have to be shared with other broadcasting authorities. The effect of this interference is much greater during the hours of dusk and darkness which in the winter months include the early morning programmes.

During the daytime, satisfactory reception is expected within the area bounded by Harrow and Islington in the north, Greenwich on the east, Caterham and Leatherhead in the south and Sunbury and Hillingdon in the west. For the hours of dusk and darkness the area is expected to be reduced to a circle bounded by Regent's Park, the City of London, Tooting and Barnes.

The main channels for Radio 4 remain vhf and 200 kHz (1500 m.) long wave. For most listeners in London the vhf service on 93.5 MHz continues to give the best reception as it is free of foreign interference.

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