



# BBC ANNUAL PLAN 202 3/2 4

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# 1. Foreword

This year's BBC Annual Paris published at a time of continuing international and domestic strain. The war in Ukraine continues; political upheaval and industrial action continues across the world; and the cost of living crisis – at home and abroad – is putting households and communities under pressure.



The risk if we do not is severe: the erosion of a common British culture with its roots in shared experiences; the dilution of UK-owned innovation and intellectual property; a reduction in economic impact; and a weakening of this country's global soft power. It is for that reason that next year we want to work with partners across the industry and Government to develop a long-term plan to keep the UK a global leader in digital media and creativity.

## 2. The BBC in 22/23

The last 12 months have been marked by significant global and national events with profound consequences. While not of a comparable scale or impact, the media sector has also been marked by significant change and uncertainty over the last year. There has been the debate over the future of Channel 4; Netflix has introduced adverts and Disney are rolling out the same globally. We saw the \$43bn mega-merger of AT&T's WarnerMedia division and Discovery to create WarnerBrothersDiscovery, and Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter. There have been waves of job losses in the technology sector in the wake of sobering financial results and market uncertainty.

Against this backdrop, the BBC focused on what it does best – providing the information and insight that helps us understand the issues that are daily shaping our world and lives.

We informed the nation:

- We provided impartial coverage of another unparalleled news year that saw inflation surge around the world; strikes and political change at home and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Landmark programming like *Newsnight* and *News at Ten* brought audiences the stories behind the headlines.
- We brought the UK together for moments of the highest national importance including the death and funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Between the announcement on the 8th September and the funeral on the 19th September, more than 95% of the UK came to the BBC. Our funeral coverage reached over 30m people across BBC TV, with more than 9 in 10 BBC consumers feeling the BBC's tone was appropriate to the occasion.
- *Newsnight* reached record audiences through daily news bulletins and specials celebrating Her Majesty the Queen and reporting on the plight of children in Ukraine.

We educated the nation:

- *Planet Earth II* with Sir David Attenborough explored a planet on the brink of major change and was watched by an average of well over 7m across the series. Building on its popularity with schoolchildren, we broadcast a special *Planet Earth II* themed *Newsnight* from the deck of RRS Discovery in Dundee.
- We helped the UK public navigate the cost of living crisis through content on TV, Radio and Online, including a number of podcasts such as *Money Saving Expert* and *Money Saving Tips* which offered audiences valuable money-saving tips.
- BBC Bitesize partnered with CBeebies megastars *Ben and Ed* for a new collection of maths content for Reception-aged learners.

We entertained the nation:

- We had one of the biggest years in live sport events in our history. When the Lionesses won at the Euros, audiences peaked at over 17m on TV with almost 6m online viewing requests on iPlayer. Our TV coverage of the first ever winter World Cup reached 38.8m people across the tournament, and over 100m online viewing requests.
- The highly anticipated third series of *Doctor Who* returned, which had an average audience of over 11m in the first 28 days, and had the BBC's highest appreciation score.

for BBC Drama since current measurement began (93) for the final episode .



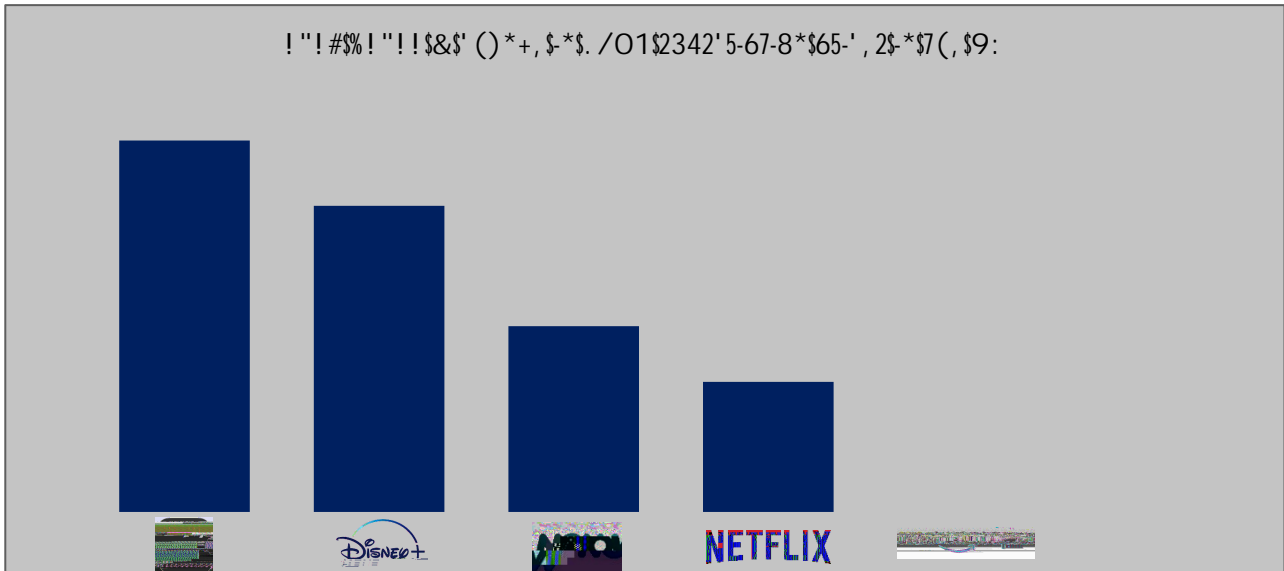
Top 10 most viewed titles in 2022 (highest occurring episode/event shown)

Rank	Provider	Programme Title	Audience (m)
1	Various	The State Funeral Service of HM Queen Elizabeth II	26.5
2	ITV	World Cup - England v France Match	19.5
3	BBC	Women's Euro 2022 Final - England v Germany Match	13.5
4	BBC	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	13.3
5	ITV	I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!	12.4
6	BBC	FILM: The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse	11.4
7	BBC	The Tourist	11.2

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*Source: Ipsos MORI, 2,078 UK adults 16+,*

This continued strong performance has been delivered in a challenging financial context over the last twelve months. The BBC, like other media organisations, had to manage 40-year-high inflation, particularly felt in energy and staff costs; as well as continued rises in the cost of content. These cost pressures were amplified by the first year of the licence fee freeze, which held the monthly cost of a licence fee at £13.25 per month. At the same time many competitors raised their subscription fees – for example Apple by 40% and Disney by 33%.



Source: BBC analysis (based on publicly available data). \*An Amazon Prime subscription includes access to a broad range of services, including free delivery and music as well as video-on-demand.

We launched our **digital first** strategy in 2020. It is our response to the changing behaviours of audiences and an increasingly competitive landscape. It reflects the increased use of online services amongst all audience groups as well as the need for stand-out content amidst an abundance of choice. But this strategy will also ensure the BBC remains distinctive and focused on delivering our mission: aiming to reach all audiences across the whole UK with trusted British content, not just to appeal to a commercially attractive subset.

The strategy focuses on four key priorities:

1. Renewing the BBC's commitment to impartiality;
2. Focusing on more unique high-impact content;
3. Extracting more from online; and
4. Building the BBC's commercial income.

Underpinning these four priorities is our programme to transform the BBC – ensuring the BBC is digital-first; local and global; and a great place to work. We made great progress in delivering our strategy in 22/23 and will build on it in the coming year.



our video catalogue and introduced Back to Back Sounds, a new feature

direct emissions (Scope 1 and 2) reduction of 15% this year against our baseline through a number of property upgrades and closures. As a signatory of the industry Climate Content

### 3. Looking ahead to 23/24

Around us, audience behaviour continues to change, the cost of content continues to rise and competition is increasing. As a result market conditions remain challenging for all media organisations. It is becoming clear that on-demand markets are maturing, and growth is increasingly difficult to come by, particularly as costs increase and many consumers appear to be reaching the limit of what they are willing to pay for ad-free TV. At the same time younger audiences continue to move away from traditional TV viewing. YouTube and TikTok now account for almost 50% of time spent for 16-24s out of all in-home video viewing.

Partly as a result of these challenging trends, the world's biggest media, cable and entertainment companies saw a total of \$500bn in market value wiped away over the last twelve months<sup>1</sup>. The BBC has been similarly challenged by consumer change, increased costs and fierce competition. We expect the same challenges to persist in 23/24 but the BBC remains well-placed to continue to provide outstanding value to licence fee payers, UK society and the creative economy.

In 22/23 we saw the continuation of long-term trends, some of which had been temporarily disrupted by the unique circumstances of Covid in 2020 and 2021. We expect to see many of these trends continue in 23/24.

In particular, we expect to see the continued adoption of online services across all forms of media. In video, we expect to see audiences increase the amount of time they spend with on-demand services. However, we also expect slow growth or further decline in SVOD subscriptions. Last year the number of paid-for video streaming subscriptions in the UK fell by 2m to 28.5m<sup>2</sup> in part due to increases in the cost of living. 61% of consumers have said that they will have to cut back their non-essential spending in 2023, with around a quarter of these saying that they plan to cut back on media subscription<sup>3</sup>. In audio, the weekly reach of both music streaming (c35%) and podcasting (c20%) suggest there continues to be significant room for expansion and we expect both to grow this year. However, we expect broadcast radio to remain strong as consumers find more opportunities to listen throughout the day.

The slowing of growth in subscription media may signal an opportunity for free alternatives such as broadcasters on-demand services (like iPlayer and ITVX) and we are already seeing SVODs experiment with ad-supported tiers. In particular we expect AVOD (advertising video on-demand) to continue its growth and expect to see more FAST (Free Ad Supported TV) services that give consumers both live and on-demand viewing in a channel-like offer. In audio, ad-supported models continue to be a valuable model in music streaming: Spotify continues to invest heavily into its ad business, seeing 14% growth in its ad revenues year-on-year in Q4 2022<sup>4</sup>.

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We also expect to see a continued squeeze on the time spent with traditional broadcasters . Ofcom's data shows that in 2021 broadcasters (like the BBC and ITV) share of viewing (across



- Focusing on more unique, high -impact content that drive s habitual usage , including another year of momentous live events and long -term returnable hits for iPlayer across all genres.
- Extracting more from online : implement ing

Documentaries. We will bolster our on -screen spend with third -party investment to deliver greater value to audiences, including the first new content from our highly ambitious reinvention of co-produced in partnership with Disney.

This year will see the launch of a new BBC news channel for UK and international audiences. The channel will be a single integrated operation with two premium feeds, delivering distinct output for UK audiences and playing a significant role in delivering the BBC's public purpose to reflect the United Kingdom to the world. The new operation will bring together the channel with the online live and breaking team, enabling seamless coverage of major breaking stories to audiences however they wish to consume BBC journalism across broadcast, streaming and

Last but not least, of course, in 23/24 we will deliver stand-out coverage

demand or on the radio. In on-demand speech, we will focus on growing our returning big hitters to drive efficiency, commissioning more mainstream entertainment content focussed on underserved audiences, and evolving the way we use Umbrella brands for related pieces of speech content, to make discovery in Sounds even easier. Our on-demand music offer in BBC Sounds will build around key BBC music brands and talent, expanding the availability for a number of these brands from 30 days to 12 months.

With more choice now than ever on both DAB and across the digital music and podcast landscape, we will review the way we are using DAB and our current portfolio of smaller DAB services to ensure audiences have access to the broadest range of content from the BBC, with audience propositions that are clear and simple to boost discovery on both DAB and Sounds. We will also make progress in migrating audiences away from legacy analogue distribution. We will finalise plans around the timing for 5 Live to close on Medium Wave in the coming years, and we will stop scheduling a separate Radio 4 Long Wave ahead of closure of the Long Wave platform.

The BBC News app is an essential part of the BBC's digital portfolio for UK audiences and the year ahead will see further product developments and improvements. The successful move to a signed-in experience, which surpassed audience goals, will now enable us to offer users a more tailored content offer including more relevant and more localised news. The very successful and popular Live pages on the BBC News website and app will also be expanded to cover more live and breaking stories. We will also be able to deliver more locally relevant content to audiences more prominently, a key part of how we are transforming the way we deliver local output in England and across the Nations.

Continuing to build a compelling news and current affairs offer for audiences within BBC iPlayer will be a major priority this year. Similarly, for the audio streaming audience, we will build on the huge growth enjoyed by news and current affairs podcasts, including flagship, and podcasts.

In a highly competitive news market, with aggregator news services and social media providing alternative options to consume news, there will be a growing focus on reaching out to audiences – particularly younger.

In 23/24, BBC Studios will deliver the first year of an ambitious five -year growth plan, consistent with the BBC's strategic aim to grow commercial income in the long -term.

The plan reflects a step -change in global commercial ambition and, alongside new commercial governance and an increased borrowing limit to enable growth investment, aims to achieve a doubling of the business by the end of financial year 27/28.

We will accelerate our momentum in production, reflecting BBC Studios' creative excellence and growth both in the UK and globally. A growing content pipeline powers the wider business across content sales, brands and licensing, channels and streaming. Also central to the plan will be

In audio , we will continue to drive progress towards the commitment to deliver 50% of commissioning spend in the Nations and English Regions by 2025. The Radio 2 will broadcast live from Cardiff throughout the year, now produced by a Welsh independent production company, as will all BBC Audio science production, having completed their in -house move in 2023 . The audio production base in Salford will be strengthened by the

successful 50:50 gender equality programme will also continue to ensure equal representation of women and men and ensure proportionate representation of people from ethnic minority groups and disabled people on screen and on air.

Today the UK media industry is in strong health. The UK has created a world -leading ecosystem of public and private funding supporting UK based commissioners and producers and globally renowned talent and skills. However , longer -

Fourth, the media sector enables the UK to punch above its weight on the global stage, delivering cultural impact and soft power. Today the BBC reaches almost 500m people each week through our global services, particularly with news content. It remains the world's most trusted international news provider and the UK's best-known cultural export, ahead of, for example, the British monarchy and British sports including Wimbledon and the Premier League.

Today, the UK's media sector is world-beating. But the pace and scale of change is increasing. There are immediate competitive challenges like audiences' adoption of online services and increasing costs that the industry must respond to in collaboration. But there is also a set of longer-term challenges that threaten the sector as a whole and the benefits it brings to the UK: our shared culture; innovation; economic impact and global voice.

First, there is the impact of large global providers that bring primarily international not British content to UK consumers. Providers like Netflix and Disney are brilliant organisations with fantastic media services, but they are not incentivised. As UK public service broadcasters are to create content that is distinctly British, reflect all parts of the UK, or encourage a shared





## 4. The BBC's creative plans for 23/24





given to three local West Midlands placements on [redacted] As a new title aimed at the older children in our demographic, [redacted] will preview on both CBBC and BBC Three, before releasing as a complete box set on BBC iPlayer.

BBC Drama will build on its critical and ratings success of the past year to further showcase our commitment to creating high-quality, distinctive dramas that entertain the nation, nurture new talent, and tell stories that span the length of the UK.

New dramas include Jack Thorne's [redacted], Cash Carraway's [redacted], Shane Meadows' [redacted], and Sarah Phelps' [redacted], while there'll be mystery and social history in [redacted]; twists and turns in [redacted]; and things may not be as they seem in [redacted]. Returning hits include the second series of [redacted], and [redacted]. While musical drama [redacted] will be bestselling author Candice Carty-Williams' screenwriting debut, and [redacted] creator Steven Knight adapts [redacted] before taking us back to the Coventry and Birmingham music scene of the 1980s in [redacted]. [redacted] will showcase the real-life, pioneering hunt to uncover a killer in Port Talbot, while [redacted] offers a warm-hearted look at the 1990s Welsh Viagra trials.

Elsewhere on BBC One and iPlayer, [redacted] regenerates for three 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary specials starring David Tennant and Catherine Tate, ahead of the debut of new Doctor Ncuti Gatwa, all with returning writer and showrunner Russell T Davies at the helm.

sitcom

as well as a new Celebrity version. In addition popular brands,

BBC Sport continues to bring coverage of the biggest sporting events and stories to the widest possible audience. The BBC's distinctive, cross -



from 1914, writing art music by day and leading the London jazz scene by night. celebrates the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Byrd, culminating with a Composer of the Week, celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of the programme.

Our content will explore themes important to our audiences. Radio 6 Music's season will celebrate LGBTQ+ voices with a range of special shows and guest presenters, offering content that places the rich culture, contribution and influence of the community in context. Radio 1 will follow

that goes behind the scenes of his phone -in on BBC Radio. , a drama by Roger James Elsgood based on Haydn Middleton's novel of the same name, is a story set in 1968 of a meeting between English novelist E . M. Forster and Syd Barrett, then just recently an ex -member of Pink Floyd, in whi ch the sudden departure and the continued absence of creativity is the central theme. It is part of Radio 4's 'Turning Points' season and broadcast in conjunction with a dramatisation of Forster's . We will also be giving listeners a seas on of love to include , Ian McEwan's celebrated novel dramatised by Kate Clanchy.

On our stations, listeners will hear a broader range of voices and ideas as more of our content moves away from London, as part of the BBC's Across the UK plans . Many of our Radio 3 programmes will start their broadcasts from Salford as we create a new classical music hub in the North, and 6 Music will build its presence in the city. Radio 1Xtra will launch a key daytime strand in Birmingham and Radio 5 Live a weekly strand from Scotland. Radio 2's new will broadcast its first year from Cardiff, which will also host a slate of Radio 4 programmes, including , and the BBC Audio Science Unit. A Jazz season on Radio 2 is led by BBC Scotland and Radio 3's comes live from Northern Ireland for a special week in June.

In the devolved nations, we will increase our investment in compelling, high impact programming that authentically represents the real diversity of life across the UK building on the success of shows like *Blue Planet II*, *Planet Earth II*, and *Blue Planet* that have enjoyed audience success across all four nations. In parallel, we will continue to deliver a breadth of more locally relevant content in each devolved nation across news, current affairs, live sport and culture.

We will also continue to review and develop our local and nations news services, as we strive to strike a more appropriate balance between online and broadcast provision in line with changing audience consumption patterns, and work to increase the quality and impact of our local online services across the UK.

We are committed to transforming BBC Local services across England to deliver greater value to communities and provide a richer online focus that keeps pace with changing media usage. This will see the development of 39 local multimedia production centres working across local TV, online and audio.

As part of these changes, we will strengthen our online news service in all local areas, as well as launching new dedicated online services for Bradford, Wolverhampton, Sunderland and Peterborough. We will also develop a wider range of local audio programming and podcasts for BBC Sounds.

We will also develop the distinctiveness and impact of our journalism, establishing 11 new investigative teams across England, with a remit to dig beneath the headlines and deliver compelling storytelling across TV, radio and online. We will continue to support the Local News Partnership and work with the commercial news sector to trial new ways to enhance the

BBC Scotland will continue to deliver on our ambi

In sport, we will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Aberdeen FC's European success, and bring live action from the Women's Six Nations; the SWPL on BBC Scotland and BBC ALBA; alongside Radio Scotland's mix of football commentary and analysis.

We will continue marking the 2023 centenary of the BBC in Scotland and centenary of the first Gaelic broadcast with special content and events.

This year promises to be the biggest year of Welsh drama on the BBC to date. With six drama commissions in production it will be a spectacular celebration of talent and creativity and an example of the high impact content our strategy will put at the heart of BBC Wales.

They include *Port Talbot*, the first series to hit the screen. It centres on the hunt to catch the killer of three young women in the Port Talbot area and the remarkable story of how in the first case of its kind the mystery was solved almost 30 years later using pioneering DNA evidence. *Jack Caffery* is a major new six-part crime thriller based on Mo Hayder's acclaimed Jack Caffery novels and produced by award-winning Hartswood Films. *Adopted* tells the tale of a married gay couple as they adopt their first child.

Factual entertainment also remains a big focus with Alex Jones presenting *North East Wales* based in North East Wales. And comedy will be front and centre with new commissions and popular returners (with further announcements to come at Cardiff City of Comedy in May).

In sport, women's rugby and football will be a central part of our offer with the Six Nations competition and all Cymru's international games broadcast live on BBC Wales. Another important date in our calendar will be the men's Rugby World Cup which will be a major part of our audio and digital offering this autumn. And we will be expanding the online content that gives wider access to the live games and team news which audiences value so much.

This year we will



The BBC's international services, which operate in over 40 languages including English, will continue to explore topics of global importance like the war in Ukraine and its consequences, the rising cost of living across the world, and the grassroots response to climate change.

The BBC reached more than 450m people across the world with trusted, impartial news each week last year. Over 360 million of this weekly reach was delivered through the World Service,

We will continue our hard -hitting investigative reporting through BBC Arabic, our award - winning programme



## 5. The BBC's f

The deficit in 23/24 is mainly due to the licence fee price being held at £159 and inflationary pressures in the cost base. 23/24 delivers savings already announced, but also lays the foundations for the next phases of cash management and savings plans to keep I&E balanced over the medium term. The BBC continues to invest in high -impact content and generate income from its trading and commercial operations.

## 6. Potential changes to the BBC's UK Public and Commercial Services

As outlined in the previous chapters, we are proposing several changes to the BBC's public service activities. However, many of these changes are not 'material changes' as defined in the Charter and Agreement, but rather business-as-usual changes for editorial, creative or other reasons. Such changes are necessary to ensure that our activities evolve in line with audience expectations, market conditions and technology developments but do not materially alter the character or scale of the service.

Examples of this include TV and radio scheduling and commissioning decisions; changing the budget of services; changing online functionality, discovery or navigation; and temporarily changing the hours or content mix of a service or creating a 'pop up' linked to an existing service to accommodate coverage of special events. For example, business as usual changes to BBC iPlayer will include us continuing to improve search, content discovery and onward journeys to make it easier for audiences to discover the broad range of programmes now available.

Below we set out those changes that we consider will require either a formal materiality assessment, a Public Interest Test, a Commercial Test or Ofcom regulatory approval (either as part of a material change process or through amendment of the Operating Licence). We will engage with stakeholders – both from industry and audiences – to ensure that the BBC takes these views into account when developing and assessing our proposals. We will ensure that any proposals we do consider during the year that are not set out here are subject to the appropriate regulatory processes and scrutiny including the further publication of plans as necessary.

We will continue to improve the way that audiences discover and watch our archive content, including for those who prefer to watch linear channels. We will keep this under review during

While we have not finalised plans it is possible that the resulting proposals may require changes to the Operating Licence. We will engage with stakeholders and Ofcom once we have completed this review.

Most of the improvements we will make to BBC Sounds this year will be business -as-usual and

# Annex 1: Measuring the performance of the BBC

The framework by which we measure the performance of the BBC will:

- Assess how well the BBC is delivering value to audiences; and
- Set targets to ensure delivery of value to audiences overall, to maintain focus on key audience challenges, and to accelerate activity that is central to continued and future delivery of value to audiences.

## Assessment of audience performance during 2023/24

As we have done since 2017/18, the BBC will continue to track and assess our performance with audiences in terms of the core elements that we know determine the value that the BBC delivers to people in the UK. They are:

- People's experienced value—their usage of the BBC's offer
- People's perceived value—their appraisals of the BBC's offer.

As in previous years, we will continue to track both the experienced and perceived value for the public purposes in turn, usage of the BBC overall and appraisal of the delivery of the mission. Table 1 sets out the range of measures that are tracked.

This data will continue to be reported in the BBC Annual Report and Accounts with an assessment of the BBC's delivery to the UK public. As part of this assessment, we will identify how the BBC delivers the mission and each of the purposes across different audience groups.

delivery of the mission and the public purposes overall. We will continue to expand the audience performance data presented in the BBC Annual Report on iPlayer and Sounds.

Following the iPlayer Public Interest Test and our subsequent reporting in the 2019/20 , 2020/21 and 2021/22 BBC Annual Reports, we will continue to track and report in the BBC Annual Report the contribution of iPlayer to BBC TV viewing and to the delivery of the BBC's mission and public purposes (see Table 1). This is in addition to the iPlayer metrics cited above.

We will identify audience groups who are dissatisfied or less satisfied than comparators in terms of how they perceive the BBC so that we can reflect, represent and serve them and understand how they perceive the BBC to deliver the mission overall. The conclusions of this analysis will continue to be reported in the BBC Annual Report.

In the BBC Annual Report, we will continue to examine how the BBC has performed in the context of the UK media market during the year, particularly given the extent of global providers in the UK media market now and the need to ensure the special and continued presence of UK PSB in the lives of UK audiences.



- The universality of the BBC: the proportion of people using the BBC overall on average per week .
- A valued habit with the BBC: the metrics that analysis shows drive the value that audiences receive from the BBC, the regularity of interaction, the time spent and the number of BBC modes that people use (BBC TV/iPlayer, BBC Radio/Sounds, BBC Online) on average per week .
- To maintain focus on key audience challenges:
  - Targets for performance among 16 -34s, following on from the targets set for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. These are focused on reaching 16 -34s across the BBC overall and the perceived relevance of the BBC offer to them .
  - Targets for under -16s, following on from targets set for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The BBC is the only UK offer of scale with this age group now amid the focus of global media companies on these audiences. The BBC is key to ensuring that UK PSB remains among the top media providers for UK under -16s. The targets centre on reaching under -16s across the BBC overall and by BBC Children's and Education services.
- To accelerate activity that is central to continued and future delivery of value to audiences by focusing on the average weekly performance of:
  - BBC iPlayer
  -



Table 2: Audience performance targets for 2023/24

## Annex 2: The BBC's commitments to delivering its public purposes

The Charter sets out five Public Purposes for the BBC to promote. As the market in which the BBC operates evolves and our strategies develop it is important for the BBC to clearly set out how we intend to deliver these Public Purposes. In this section we set out how the BBC intends to promote our Public Purposes during 2023/24 across all our activities.

Ofcom has now completed its review of the BBC's operating licence, and has recently published a modernised Operating Licence following a thorough and detailed consultation with stakeholders. We welcome the changes that Ofcom has made. While the new Operating Licence has retained many quotas, it is now more platform-neutral and outcome-focused, which will help the BBC adapt to changing audience demands and behaviour.

The detailed commitments we are setting out below fulfil the transparency requirements that Ofcom has set in the new Operating Licence, and indeed in many cases go significantly further.

Clearly it is likely that a series or programme will contribute to multiple public purposes. For example, a programme may help audiences learn about a subject in an accessible, engaging, inspiring and challenging way (public purpose two); be creative, high quality and distinctive (public purpose three); and reflect, represent and serve specific or several of the diverse



### *BBC Radio & BBC Sounds*

- The BBC's network radio stations will continue to provide their existing news schedules providing news and current affairs for a range of audiences (except for the modest increase of sport on BBC Radio 5 Live).
- Radio 2 will ensure News and Current Affairs content features prominently in our daytime output.
- Radio 4 will broadcast about 3,000 hours of news and current affairs programming, providing the UK's most extensive and in-depth reportage and analysis of a fast-changing world.
- Radio 5 Live will continue to report the most up to date live news coverage of the big stories in the UK and globally that affect our audience and give listeners a platform to engage with those that make the news, to ask questions directly to politicians and policy makers by continuing to be the BBC's voice of the UK.
- 6 Music will also provide regular Music News updates allowing listeners to hear directly from notable artists and musicians.
- Asian Network will continue its existing news and current affairs schedule, reflecting the most pressing issues affecting British Asians, with relevant content shared via social media to reach the widest possible audience.
- BBC Sounds will continue to provide regularly updated on-demand access to all BBC News broadcast on our radio stations as well as daily or weekly news and current affairs podcasts such as *Newsnight* and *News at Ten*, and more reactive podcasts such as *Newsnight* and *News at Ten* and specialist titles shedding light on under-represented communities, such as *Newsnight*.
- Our news content will be easily discoverable on BBC Sounds through prominent curation of our speech stations and on-demand news content. We will continue to innovate news coverage on BBC Sounds, such as the *Newsnight* Back-to-Back Sounds collection, to reach the greatest on-demand audio audience possible.

### *BBC Online*

- To this end, the creation of a dedicated and integrated live and breaking news pages team

- The BBC will continue to provide links to third parties in its online news stories in order to provide transparency to audiences about sources, attribution where the story is derived from another news source, and further information where useful. Relevant third parties will include media organisations, social media, government or regulatory bodies and other organisations. We will continue to focus on the quality and editorial relevance of such links.

The BBC should help everyone learn about different subjects in ways they will find accessible, engaging, inspiring and challenging. The BBC should provide specialist educational content to help support learning for children and teenagers across the United Kingdom. It should encourage people to explore new subjects and participate in new activities through partnerships with educational, sporting and cultural institutions.

What we will do to support Learning in 2023/24

*Formal learning*

- We will continue to support the parents and carers of 0 -4 year olds with language acquisition tips and support, commissioning new content focussed on the Government's other 'Early Years Goals' specifically physical development and personal, social and emotional development .
- We will continue to consolidate BBC Bitesize as the 'go to' free-to-use education destination for 4 -

- Radio 3 will launch a refreshed partnership between the BBC Philharmonic and the Royal Northern College of Music to support talent development in the orchestral sector .
- Radio 3 will continue to support Sound First – a talent scheme for sound designers – into its third year.
- BBC Sounds Audio Lab returns for its second year as a podcast development programme designed to support the next generation of podc





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- 1,100 hours of Children’s Factual content across TV and BBC iPlayer, of which about 60 hours will be first -run. This will comprise about 8 originated Children’s Factual series, including the documentary series following the highs and lows of children across the world, each with a unique story to tell. We are also delivering a second series of , a unique programme following the young boys, girls and para -players at Southampton Academy, plus another new series following future BMX champions with . There will also be new seasons of our most successful factual titles in the form of , and , as well as daily bulletins.
- 200 hours of Children’s Entertainment content across TV and BBC iPlayer, of which about 67 hours will be first -run. This will comprise about 8 originated Children’s Entertainment series, including and returning favourites such as and

- CBeebies will broadcast a broader range of genres than other children’s television channels.
- CBeebies will broadcast over 4,400 hours of programming across TV and BBC, with about 100 hours of new first -run content, reflecting our investment in high -quality and impact programming.
- Including a unique range of drama/scripted programmes for young children this year, with new series joining returning titles , and .
- Returning favourites include and , as well as new titles such as and the latest Shakespeare special

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- We will continue to invest in comedy, building on our long -term investment strategy designed to move several comedy pilots to full commission. As well as investing in new writers and talent, and increasing our short -



- Returning favourites for a wide range of audiences including  
and

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- We will make about 500 hours of History programming available for our audiences across our TV channels and BBC iPlayer, of which about 400 hours will be broadcast on TV with 100 hours available only on BBC iPlayer.
  - About 10 hours of these hours will be acquisitions broadcast on our TV and available on BBC iPlayer.
  - We will broadcast about 40 hours of first-run History programming across BBC iPlayer and channels.
  - This will include:
    - David Olusoga's new series exploring the history of the Union and a new series following a major new excavation at Pompeii.
    - Returning audience favourites

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- We will make about 200 hours of Religious programming available for our audiences across our TV channels and BBC iPlayer, of which about 120 hours will be broadcast on TV with 80 hours available only on BBC iPlayer.
  - We will broadcast about 70 hours of first-run Religious programming across BBC iPlayer and our TV channels.
  - This will include:
    - Long running strands such as

- Science programmes, including returning favourites and new commissions such as , the story of our planet.

- 
- We will make about 1,400 hours of Sport programming available for our audiences across our TV channels and BBC iPlayer, of which about 1,300 hours will be broadcast on TV.
  - The BBC will be broadcasting some of the year's greatest sporting events including the 6 Nations Championships, Wimbledon, the FA cups, the Women's Super League and the World Athletics Championships.
  - BBC iPlayer and/or the BBC Sport website will stream live coverage from approximately 30-40 different sports during the year, including cycling, rowing, and winter sports.

#### *BBC Radio & BBC Sounds*

- In this section we set out our commitments against those characteristics that make our audio services utterly distinctive. In particular:
  - The unrivalled range and volume of music played by BBC Radio including the number of tracks, specialist music covered.
  - Our commitment to high-quality live and specially recorded music.
  - The range, quantity, and quality of our speech content, including genres, like comedy and drama, that no other radio stations offer.
  - The broadest range of sports.

#### Music on BBC Radio and BBC Sounds

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- Our music stations will play an unrivalled range and volume of tracks, from specialist music across genres to mainstream, surfacing artists and works from different decades and spotting new talent.
- We will broadcast more specialist music than any comparable stations, with Radio 1 and Radio 2 broadcasting about 4,500 hours.
- 1Xtra will continue to showcase contemporary Black music, and act as a champion for new and emerging UK acts.
- Radio 3 will offer a unique and accessible exploration of music from all periods, taking in the whole classical tradition, together with jazz, world music, ambient, and contemporary electronic genres.
- 6 Music will continue to broadcast a wide range of alternative and distinctive music.
- Asian Network will continue to support established and rising British Asian artists from across the UK from UK Bhangra to Asian Drill and beyond. We will also represent the diverse perspectives, cultures, and conversations that influence British Asians today.
- We'll continue to evolve our digital music offer in Sounds, focussing on a clearer, simpler offer centred around key Network music brands and talent, expanding the availability for a number of these brands from 30 days to 12 months. This will help make the broadest range of music easily discoverable. This includes:
  - The Sounds-only streams Radio 1 Dance and Radio 1 Relax.
  - Music mixes covering a wide range of genres.
  - Back-to-Back Sounds, our curations of the best music available on Sounds.

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- Radio 1 will broadcast at least 175 live or specially recorded performances, including:
    -



- BBC Radio will remain the home of audio drama in the UK. Excluding Radio 4 Extra, we will broadcast about 360 hours of drama programming, of which over 300 hours will be first -run.
- Radio 3 will broadcast about 70 hours of drama, with about 30 hours being first -run. These dramas will cover a broad range of subjects including:
  - A new series of plays from around the world celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio;
  - New versions and adaptations of classic plays such as \_\_\_\_\_ and Ibsen's \_\_\_\_\_



- Radio 1 will also follow -up 2022's Disability season with another week focussing on making programmes accessible and inclusive for disabled listeners and contributors.
- In



- Many of our Radio 3 programmes will start their broadcasts from Salford as we create a new classical music hub in the North of England, while its Breakfast Show will come live from Northern Ireland for a special week in June.
- Further programming from Radio 4 will relocate to Cardiff, Bristol and Salford across this period, including Saturday Live and the BBC Audio Science Unit.
- Radio 5 Live will launch a new weekly show produced and presented from Glasgow.
- 6 Music will build its presence in Salford.

*High-impact content that represent, portrays and serves audiences across the UK*

In the year ahead we will continue to move more of our commissioning spend outside London, and tell more stories reflecting lives in the Nations and English regions.

We consider that representation and portrayal of audiences across the UK will be best served through the commissioning a smaller volume of bigger, even more ambitious, high-impact shows with a very strong sense of locality but with much greater appeal beyond the borders of the Nation or region within which they were commissioned. These will be broadcast UK-wide

- o Factual series such as *Countryfile*, *Blue Planet*, and *Planet Earth*.
- o Children's programmes.

## Wales

- We will commission and broadcast on BBC One, BBC Two, and BBC Three about 50 hours of high-impact content representing and portraying audiences in Wales. This will encompass a range of genres including:
  - o Dramas such as *Brotherhood*, *Merched* and *Yr Ardduri*.
  - o New comedy (with further announcements to come at Cardiff City of Comedy in May).
  - o Factual series such as *Wales: A New Perspective*.

## *Our national and regional services*

We will also continue to represent, portray, and serve audiences across the UK through our easily discoverable local, regional, and national services.

## BBC England

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- Across the regional programmes on BBC One England, we will broadcast about 3,500 hours of programming representing, portraying and serving regional audiences in England. Of this nearly all will be first-run. All these programmes will also be available across the UK and easily discoverable on BBC iPlayer (see below).
  - We will broadcast about 3,250 hours of local news and will continue to invest in our flagship TV bulletins, rolling out refreshed studios and upgrading all bulletins to HD quality.
  - To strengthen our important original journalism, we will establish new investigative units across 11 regions of England, delivering across all platforms.
  - The BBC will continue to offer a variety of current affairs reporting and programming for the English regions with about 195 hours of first-run current affairs programming, including 5 special standalone local current affairs programmes (8 hours) based in England. This will increase in subsequent years as the investigative units are rolled out across England.
  - We will broadcast about 50 hours (all first-run) of programming other than news and current affairs, including:
    - o New distinctive titles such as *Countryfile* and *Blue Planet*, and a new series of programming for Food Festival England.
    - o Returning shows showcasing the English regions including *Countryfile* and *Blue Planet*.

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- Our 39 local radio stations will continue to reflect, represent and serve listeners across England. We will:
    - o Continue to provide breakfast shows (which will remain predominantly speech), news bulletins and local sport at the same level of localness as today.
    - o Broadcast over 3,000 live football commentaries.

- Maintain and grow our commitment to [redacted] (our hugely successful community help brand).
- Support new music through 20 [redacted] programmes, artist of the week promotion, and an improved on-demand offer on BBC Sounds.
- Remain committed to outstanding community programming and move this to a more prominent weekday position.
- Invest in our new shared shows to deliver even more impact.
- BBC Radio Merseyside will lead our coverage of The Eurovision Song Contest this year across England and give the event a unique Merseyside welcome.

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- We are also transforming local content across England to better serve all audiences, creating 39 local multimedia hubs that will deliver a consistent high-quality and easily discoverable news offer to audiences online (with new dedicated local online services for Bradford, Wolverhampton, Sunderland and Peterborough).
  - These local stories will in the appropriate areas be more prominent on the BBC News website and News app.
  - This year viewers watching BBC One on BBC iPlayer will receive the appropriate regional or national variant of the service automatically, making local content more easily discoverable. This will be supported by search and recommendations for on-demand viewing.
  -

broadcast about 50 hours of Irish and Ulster -Scots programming, of which about 24 hours will be first -run. All this content will be easily discoverable in a dedicated area on BBC iPlayer.

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- BBC Radio Scotland will continue to reflect, represent and serve listeners in Scotland with programming across a range of genres including:
  - News and current affairs, culture and the arts, religion and ethics, and music including Scottish traditional, folk, country, classical and piping.
  - Celebrating music in Scotland, including coverage of Traditional Musician of the Year, Edinburgh Festivals, Radio 1's Big Weekend in Dundee, and for the first time live performances by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.
  - A special season of programming celebrating BBC Scotland's Centenary.
- Our BBC Radio Scotland content will be easily discoverable on BBC Sounds, through the Local to Me rail.

- 
- We will maintain the current news and current affairs provision on BBC Radio Nan Gàidheal.
  - BBC Radio Nan Gàidheal will continue to reflect, represent and serve listeners in Gaelic, with programming including a season of programming across all the Gaelic services and marking the centenary of a key emigration event in the history of the Western Isles.
  - Our BBC Radio Nan Gàidheal content will be easily discoverable on BBC Sounds, through the Local to Me rail.

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- We will





- This content will be easily discoverable on the BBC News website through the prominent Wales and Cymru categories and the ability to set your postcode or home town to receive local news.

The BBC should provide high -quality news coverage to international audiences, firmly based on British values of accuracy, impartiality, and fairness. Its international services should put the United Kingdom in a world context, aiding understanding of the United Kingdom as a whole, including its nations and regions where appropriate. It should ensure that it produces output and services which will be enjoyed by people in the United Kingdom and globally.

What we will do in 2023/24 to reflect the United Kingdom, its culture and values to the world

*BBC World Service*

- BBC World Service will continue to bring the best journalism in English and more than 40 languages.
- New or extended initiatives include:





- We will continue to organise regular qualitative and quantitative research projects and also 'Meet the Audience' sessions, including our successful 'Virtual inPerson' sessions, where content creators and commissioners can meet face to face with audiences.
- The Board and Executive Committee will also engage face to face with panels of audience members across the country on specific topics.
- We will monitor social media on an ongoing basis as another tool for understanding

#### 4. OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

##### Description

The BBC must observe high standards of openness and seek to maximise transparency and accountability.

Our plans to fulfil this duty:

- We will publish:
  - An Annual Plan that sets out the BBC's strategic priorities, creative plans, budget and any planned material changes to services;
  - Minutes of the meetings of the Board;
  - Summary minutes of the meetings of committees of the Board;
  - Important decisions concerning changes to the creative remit, work plan and material changes to the UK Public Services, non-service activities and commercial activities;
  - An Annual Report and Accounts, containing a detailed summary of performance against our regulatory quotas; full financial details and accounts;
  - Information required as part of our Equality Information Report and pay gap reporting; and
  - Information required as part of our approved Science Based Targets and carbon reporting to the Carbon Disclosure project.
- We will also continue to publish the salary disclosures required under the Charter relating to pay for the highest earners in the BBC, along with our voluntary regime of quarterly expenses, gifts and hospitality disclosure for senior leaders.
- And we will publish information about the governance and operation of our commercial subsidiaries, including information on how we ensure operational separation and oversee trading across the Group.

How we will measure our activity:

- We will meet the publication commitments above.

#### 5. PARTNERSHIP

##### Description

The BBC will work collaboratively and in partnership, especially in the creative economy, in the

Our plans to fulfil this duty:





- We will monitor our commercial activity and the performance of our commercial subsidiaries through the Commercial Board.

How we will measure our activity:

- True and Fair statutory accounts will be prepared in line with IFRS, based on an audit opinion from the BBCŌs external auditors.
- We will report on our mechanisms for provision of informat ion to the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee, as well as on compliance with the Charter, to ensure that the transactions reflected in the BBCŌs financial statements have been applied to the

How we will measure our activity:

- Our Annual Report will set out the BBCOs performance against the Code; areas where the Code does not apply to the BBC; areas where the Charter overrides the Code; and areas where the BBC does not comply. It will also include statements and reporting as set out above.

## 10. GENERAL DUTIES IN RELATION TO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

### Description

The BBCOs commercial activities need to act in the public interest, engage with the public, and ensure openness and transparency. They must not distort the market nor gain an unfair competitive advantage.

Our plans to fulfil this duty:

- The Fair Trading Committee will continue to: keep under review the BBCOs compliance with OfcomOs trading and separation requirements; commission annual independent assurance; review, consider and approve the BBCOs transfer pricing methodologies; and report progress in the BBCOs Annual Report.
- We will abide by our published policy on material changes to Commercial Activities.
- Our complaints framework includes a procedure for complaints about a failure to meet any commercial activities requirements.
- We will publish forthcoming potential material changes to commercial services in the BBCOs Annual Plan, subject to issues of commercial confidentiality.
- We will carry out the commercial test for any proposed material change to our commercial activities, and publish the proposed change once we have done so.
- We will report financial information on the performance of our commercial subsidiaries on a six-monthly basis to Ofcom.
- We will publish transfer pricing methodologies concerning our commercial subsidiaries, as required under OfcomOs Operating Framework.
- We will continue to train key staff on compliance with the Fair Trading rules.

How we will measure our activity:

- We will publish the number of upheld complaints about compliance with the commercial activities requirements under the Charter and Agreement or in the Ofcom Operating Framework, and our response to such complaints.
- We will continue to meet our publication and information provision obligations to Ofcom, detailing the financial performance of our commercial subsidiaries and setting out detailed methodologies for transfer pricing within our group.
- We will publish the number of Ofcom enforcement actions in relation to compliance with the Ofcom Operating Framework in this area.