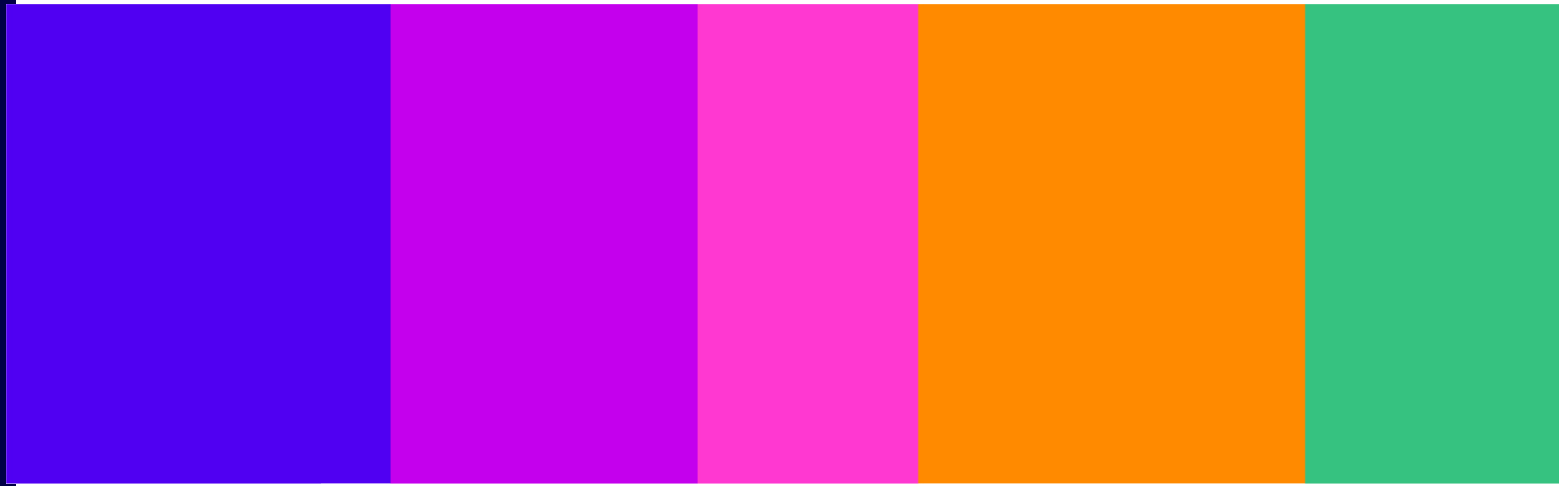


Operating licence for the BBC's UK Public Services

Published: 23 March 2023 (Updated 31 July 2025)



Contents

Section

Introduction	4
Public Purpose 1: Objectives and Regulatory Conditions	6
Public Purpose 2: Objectives and Regulatory Conditions	9
Public Purpose 3: Objectives and Regulatory Conditions	11
Public Purpose 4: Objectives and Regulatory Conditions	17
Definitions and interpretation	29

About this document

This is an unofficial consolidated version of the operating licence for the BBC's UK Public Services. The operating licence sets the regulatory conditions that Ofcom considers appropriate for requiring the BBC to fulfil its Mission and promote the Public Purposes; to secure the provision of distinctive output and services; and to secure that all BBC audiences in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland are well served.

The BBC must comply with the regulatory conditions in the operating licence. Ofcom will monitor compliance with the regulatory conditions.

This unofficial consolidated version of the operating licence incorporates, for ease of reference, all the variations made to the operating licence since March 2023 in a single document. While every reasonable effort is made to ensure that the information provided in this document is accurate, no guarantees of the accuracy of information are made, and this document has no legal effect.

Therefore, in relation to each specific variation, you are advised to consult the relevant notices set out in notices of variation or in Ofcom's annual reports on the BBC, listed on our [Website](#), as these contain the specific modifications that have been made.

For the avoidance of doubt, in the case of any difference between texts, the text of the original version of the operating licence issued on 23 March 2023 as amended by subsequent notices published on Ofcom's website shall take precedence over this unofficial version of the operating licence.

Introduction

This is the second operating licence for the BBC's UK Public Services (the "Licence"). Ofcom has set the Licence in exercise of its functions under the Royal Charter for the continuance of the British Broadcasting Corporation (the "Charter") and the Agreement between the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and the BBC (the "Agreement"), pursuant to section 198 of the Communications Act 2003.¹

In particular, Ofcom's functions include² setting an operating licence for the UK Public Services containing regulatory conditions Ofcom considers appropriate for requiring the BBC:

- to fulfil its Mission and promote the Public Purposes;
- to secure the provision of distinctive output and services; and
- to secure that audiences in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are well served.

Further, Ofcom has set the Licence in accordance with the requirement³ to impose specific conditions⁴ which relate to:

- distinctiveness;
- third party online material;
- news and current affairs (quantity and scheduling);
- quotas for original productions; and
- quotas for nations and regions programming and programme making.

Additionally, Ofcom has imposed in the Licence further conditions it considers appropriate for requiring the BBC to ensure that the audiences in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland are well served.⁵

The Licence applies to all of the BBC's UK Public Services⁶ and applies to all of the nations and regions of the United Kingdom.

Under the provisions of the Charter and Agreement, the BBC Board is responsible both for ensuring that the BBC fulfils its Mission and promotes the Public Purposes, and for setting the strategic direction and the creative remit for doing so.⁷ The Board, rather than Ofcom, is tasked with setting budgets and strategies for BBC programmes and services.

Ofcom has set the Licence in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Operating Framework.⁸

Ofcom may amend this Licence. Before amending the Licence, Ofcom will consult the BBC. Ofcom will also consult any other person it considers appropriate in light of the nature and materiality of the proposed amendment, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Operating Framework.

¹ Section 198 of the Communications Act 2003 makes provision for Ofcom's functions in relation to the BBC.

² Article 46(3) of the Charter.

³ Clause 13(2) of the Agreement.

⁴ The "operating licence regulatory conditions" set out in Schedule 2 to the Agreement.

⁵ Clause 13(4) of the Agreement.

⁶ UK Public Services means the services included in the list maintained and published by the BBC under Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Agreement, as amended by the BBC from time to time.

⁷ Article 20(3)(a) and (b) of the Charter.

⁸ Article 46(3) of the Charter provides that Ofcom must set an operating licence for the UK Public Services in accordance with the Operating Framework. Ofcom has published [procedures for setting and amending the Licence](#).

The BBC must comply with the regulatory conditions of the Licence in providing the UK Public Services.⁹ Ofcom must enforce compliance by the BBC with the regulatory conditions of the Licence,¹⁰ and in particular Ofcom may consider complaints made to Ofcom by any person, and carry out such investigations as Ofcom considers appropriate.¹¹ Ofcom must also enforce compliance by the BBC with some regulatory requirements¹² which apply to the BBC directly through the Charter and the Agreement, or through legislation, such as quotas for independent productions,¹³ and requirements relating to provision for people who are hearing or visually impaired.¹⁴

If Ofcom is satisfied that the BBC has failed to comply with a Regulatory Condition of the Licence, and has given the BBC a reasonable opportunity to make representations about the matter, Ofcom may:

- direct the BBC (or accept undertakings from the BBC) to take such steps Ofcom consider will remedy the failure to comply, and ensure that the BBC complies with their requirements properly in future;
- serve on the BBC a notice requiring it to pay to Ofcom, within a specified period, a specified penalty up to a maximum of £250,000.¹⁵

Ofcom has made provision in the Operating Framework for how it will exercise its enforcement powers.¹⁶

The BBC must publish an annual plan for each financial year, in advance of the period to which it relates, which must include (amongst other things) the creative remit for that year, the work plan for that year, and provision for the United Kingdom's nations and regions.¹⁷ The BBC is also required to publish an annual report for each financial year, which must include (amongst other things) how the BBC delivered the creative remit and its work plan; the BBC's provision for the United Kingdom's nations and regions, including how the BBC delivered the creative remit in the nations and regions; how it has made the BBC's output and services available to the public; and expenditure on the UK Public Television Services by genre.¹⁸

Following receipt of the BBC's annual report, Ofcom also must publish an annual report, setting out how Ofcom has carried out its principal functions under the Charter across the whole of the United Kingdom. This report also sets out Ofcom's assessment of the BBC's compliance with the regulatory conditions of the Licence.¹⁹ Ofcom has power to require the BBC to provide information for the purpose of the carrying out by Ofcom of its functions.²⁰

⁹ Clause 7(2) of the Agreement.

¹⁰ The regulatory conditions are "specified requirements" under clause 59(b) of the Agreement.

¹¹ Article 49(1) of the Charter.

¹² Ofcom's enforcement powers are set out under Article 49 of the Charter and clause 59 of the Agreement (definition of "specified requirements").

¹³ Paragraph 6 of Schedule 3 to the Agreement, and Schedule 12 to the Communications Act 2003.

¹⁴ Paragraph 9 of Schedule 3 to the Agreement.

¹⁵ Article 49(2) to (5) of the Charter and section 198(5) of the Communications Act 2003. Ofcom passes any sums that it receives in payment of a financial penalty to HM Treasury.

¹⁶ Ofcom, 2017. [Procedures for enforcement of requirements in the BBC Agreement and compliance with Ofcom enforcement action](#).

¹⁷ Article 36 of the Charter.

¹⁸ Article 37 of the Charter.

¹⁹ Article 50 of the Charter.

²⁰ Article 47 of the Charter.

Public Purpose 1: To provide impartial news and information to help people understand and engage with the world around them

Article 6 of the Charter sets out Public Purpose 1: *“The BBC should provide duly accurate and impartial news, current affairs and factual programming to build people’s understanding of all parts of the United Kingdom and of the wider world. Its content should be provided to the highest editorial standards. It should offer a range and depth of analysis and content not widely available from other United Kingdom news providers, using the highest calibre presenters and journalists, and championing freedom of expression, so that all audiences can engage fully with major local, regional, national, United Kingdom and global issues and participate in the democratic process, at all levels, as active and informed citizens.”*

Public Purpose 1 – objectives

In promoting Public Purpose 1, Ofcom considers that the BBC should in particular do the following:

- Objective 1: The BBC should ensure that news and current affairs programming is high quality, in-depth and covers local, regional, national, UK and international stories. The content should be relevant to audiences and enable them to develop a broad understanding of what is happening locally, regionally, nationally and in the wider world;
- Objective 2: In providing news and current affairs programming and content, the BBC should take steps to reach, serve and engage with all audiences and make its news and current affairs content easily discoverable.

Public Purpose 1 – regulatory conditions

Ofcom is imposing the following regulatory conditions on the BBC, which the BBC must comply with and which Ofcom will enforce.

- 1.1 In providing the **UK Public Services**, the BBC must comply with:
 - 1.1.1 conditions 1.2 to 1.16 with effect from 1 April 2023 and throughout the Licence Period; and
 - 1.1.2 conditions 1.17 to 1.19 with effect from 23 March 2023 until the end of the Licence Period.

Online services

- 1.2 In respect of **BBC Online**, the BBC must ensure that it provides:

- 1.2.1 daily news and information for all audiences, which covers a broad range of subjects and must include in-depth news and analysis;
 - 1.2.2 daily news and information for children. This must be provided through content in a range of different formats (including text-based articles, videos and interactive pieces), cover a broad range of subjects, and include in-depth news and analysis; and
 - 1.2.3 adequate links to material provided by third parties.
- 1.3 In respect of each of **BBC iPlayer** and **BBC Sounds**, the BBC must:
- 1.3.1 ensure that they are updated frequently to include the latest news programmes and bulletins available;
 - 1.3.2 ensure that the most recent news programmes are easily discoverable; and
 - 1.3.3 provide current affairs programmes and make them easily discoverable.

UK Public Television Services

- 1.4 In respect of **BBC One**, the BBC must ensure that:
- 1.4.1 it shows network news programmes at intervals throughout the day;
 - 1.4.2 in each Calendar Year, at least 1,520 hours are allocated to network news programmes, of which at least 280 hours must be in Peak Viewing Time. For the purpose of this requirement, “network news programmes” does not include programmes which are overnight simulcasts of programmes on the BBC News channel; and
 - 1.4.3 in each Calendar Year, at least 45 hours are allocated to network current affairs programmes during Peak Viewing Time.
- 1.5 In respect of **BBC One** and **BBC Two** taken together, the BBC must ensure that in each Calendar Year at least 450 hours are allocated to current affairs programmes, of which at least 106 hours must be in Peak Viewing Time.
- 1.6 In respect of **BBC Three**, the BBC must ensure that every weekday (except Public Holidays) it shows news programmes that are intended to appeal to 16 to 34-year-olds.
- 1.7 In respect of **CBBC**, the BBC must ensure that:
- 1.7.1 it shows news each day (except on days falling within the Christmas Period); and
 - 1.7.2 in each Financial Year at least 35 hours are allocated to news.
- 1.8 In respect of **BBC News** channel, the BBC must ensure that it provides high quality local, regional, national, UK and international news.

UK Public Radio Services

- 1.9 In respect of **Radio 1**, the BBC must ensure that:
- 1.9.1 at least 280 hours are allocated to news in each Financial Year;
 - 1.9.2 it provides at least two extended news bulletins during Daytime each weekday (except for Public Holidays) of which at least one must be in Peak Listening Time; and
 - 1.9.3 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.
- 1.10 In respect of **1Xtra**, the BBC must ensure that:
- 1.10.1 at least 280 hours are allocated to news in each Financial Year;

- 1.10.2 it provides at least two extended news bulletins during Daytime each weekday (except for Public Holidays); and
- 1.10.3 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.
- 1.11 In respect of **Radio 2**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 1.11.1 at least 867 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programming each Financial Year, of which at least 153 hours must be in Peak Listening Time; and
 - 1.11.2 provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.
- 1.12 In respect of **Radio 3**, the BBC must ensure that it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.
- 1.13 In respect of **Radio 4**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 1.13.1 at least 2,750 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes (including repeats) in each Financial Year; and
 - 1.13.2 it provides daily reports of Parliamentary proceedings when Parliament is sitting.
- 1.14 In respect of **BBC Radio 5 Live**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 1.14.1 at least 70% of its output in each Financial Year must be news and current affairs programming; and
 - 1.14.2 there is extensive coverage of local and general elections, and of elections to the United Kingdom's devolved chambers, as well as regular coverage of international politics.
- 1.15 In respect of **BBC 6 Music**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 1.15.1 at least 306 hours are allocated to news in each Financial Year; and
 - 1.15.2 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.
- 1.16 In respect of **BBC Asian Network**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 1.16.1 at least 675 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programming in each Financial Year; and
 - 1.16.2 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.

Transparency requirements

- 1.17 The BBC must publish annually, at the same time as it publishes its Annual Plan, the steps it plans to take during the Financial Year to which the Annual Plan relates to comply with conditions 1.2 and 1.3, including any Significant Changes it plans to make in that year and the reasons for those changes.
- 1.18 The BBC must also publish any Significant Changes which are: (i) planned by the BBC after it has already published information under condition 1.17 for the current Financial Year; and (ii) proposed to be implemented before publication of information under condition 1.17 for the following Financial Year. Publication referred to in this condition must be effected as soon as reasonably practicable after the BBC has made its plans in respect of any such Significant Changes.
- 1.19 The BBC must publish annually, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, a report on whether it took the steps that it set out under condition 1.17 during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates, including whether: (i) it made Significant Changes from those plans, including those made under condition 1.18; and (ii) if so, what those changes were and the reasons for those changes.

Public Purpose 2: To support learning for people of all ages

Article 6 of the Charter sets out Public Purpose 2: *“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.”*

Public Purpose 2 – objectives

In promoting Public Purpose 2, Ofcom considers that the BBC should in particular do the following:

- Objective 1: The BBC should deliver a broad range of content that facilitates and encourages learning for audiences of all ages, including in a range of genres and subjects;
- Objective 2: In delivering learning content, the BBC should take steps to reach, serve and engage all audiences and make learning content easily discoverable.

Public Purpose 2 – regulatory conditions

Ofcom is imposing the following regulatory conditions on the BBC, which the BBC must comply with and which Ofcom will enforce.

- 2.1 In providing the **UK Public Services**, the BBC must comply with:
 - 2.1.1 conditions 2.2 to 2.5 with effect from 1 April 2023 and throughout the Licence Period;
 - 2.1.2 conditions 2.6 to 2.8 with effect from 23 March 2023 until the end of the Licence Period.
- 2.2 In respect of the **UK Public Television Services** taken together, the **UK Public Radio Services** taken together and **BBC Online**, the BBC must ensure that it provides content that facilitates and encourages informal learning for adults and children of all ages.
- 2.3 In complying with condition 2.2, the BBC must take steps to reach, serve and engage with all audiences and must make its online informal learning content easily discoverable.
- 2.4 In respect of **BBC Online**, the BBC must deliver content which supports children and teenagers in their formal learning in all parts of the United Kingdom.
- 2.5 In respect of **CBeebies**, the BBC must ensure that it delivers a broad range of content which supports pre-school children in their learning.

Transparency requirements

- 2.6 The BBC must publish annually, at the same time as it publishes its Annual Plan, the steps it plans to take during the Financial Year to which the Annual Plan relates to comply with conditions 2.2 to 2.5, including any Significant Changes it plans to make in that year and the reasons for those changes.

- 2.7 The BBC must also publish any Significant Changes which are: (i) planned by the BBC after it has already published information under condition 2.6 for the current Financial Year; and (ii) proposed to be implemented before publication of information under condition 2.6 for the following Financial Year. Publication referred to in this condition must be effected as soon as reasonably practicable after the BBC has made its plans in respect of any such Significant Changes.
- 2.8 The BBC must publish annually, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, a report on whether it took the steps that it set out under condition 2.6 during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates, including whether: (i) it made Significant Changes from those plans, including those made under condition 2.7; and (ii) if so, what those changes were and the reasons for those changes.

Public Purpose 3: To show the most creative, highest quality and distinctive output and services

Article 6 of the Charter sets out Public Purpose 3: *“The BBC should provide high-quality output in many different genres and across a range of services and platforms which sets the standards in the United Kingdom and internationally. Its services should be distinctive from those provided elsewhere and should take creative risks, even if not all succeed, in order to develop fresh approaches and innovative content.”*

Public Purpose 3 – objectives

In promoting Public Purpose 3, Ofcom considers that the BBC should in particular do the following:

- Objective 1: The BBC should provide a broad range of original UK content, including new UK content, contributing to the creative economies of the United Kingdom through its continued investment in this content;
- Objective 2: The BBC should deliver a broad range of output covering different genres and content types, including genres that are underprovided or in decline across public service broadcasting (including music, arts, religion and other specialist factual content, comedy, and children’s programming);
- Objective 3: The BBC should ensure that the output on each service is high-quality, distinctive and supports new UK voices and talent. In developing this output, it should innovate, be ambitious and take risks;
- Objective 4: In ensuring all audiences in the UK can easily discover original UK content, the BBC should continue to explore how it can innovate the ways in which it engages and reaches audiences.

Public Purpose 3 – regulatory conditions

Ofcom is imposing the following regulatory conditions on the BBC, which the BBC must comply with and which Ofcom will enforce.

- 3.1 In providing the **UK Public Services**, the BBC must comply with:
- 3.1.1 conditions 3.2 to 3.12 with effect from 1 April 2023 and throughout the Licence Period;
 - 3.1.2 conditions 3.13 to 3.16 with effect from 23 March 2023 until the end of the Licence Period.

Online services

- 3.2 In respect of each of **BBC iPlayer** and **BBC Sounds**, the BBC must:

- 3.2.1 provide a broad range of original UK content;
 - 3.2.2 support new UK talent and creative innovation, including commissioning new titles and output from a broad range of independent producers;
 - 3.2.3 provide a broad range of output covering different genres and content types, including music, arts, religion, ethics and other specialist factual content, comedy and children's programming; and
 - 3.2.4 make its original UK content easily discoverable.
- 3.3 In respect of **BBC Online**, the BBC must take steps to reach, serve and engage with all audiences, including experimenting with innovative forms of delivery where appropriate.

Television services

- 3.4 In respect of the **UK Public Television Services** taken together, the BBC must:
- 3.4.1 provide a broad range of original UK content;
 - 3.4.2 support new UK talent and creative innovation, including commissioning new titles and output from a broad range of independent producers;
 - 3.4.3 provide a broad range of output covering different genres and content types, including music, arts, religion, ethics and other specialist factual content, comedy and children's programming; and
 - 3.4.4 take steps to reach, serve and engage with all audiences.

Television and BBC iPlayer: First-Run UK Originations

- 3.5 In respect of **BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, BBC Four, CBBC, CBeebies** and **BBC iPlayer** taken together, the BBC must ensure that in each Calendar Year it provides at least 6,650 hours of a broad range of First-Run UK Originations.
- 3.6 For the purposes of condition 3.5, references to hours:
- 3.6.1 in respect of a **UK Public Television Service** mean hours measured in slot times for programmes with a slot time of 10 minutes or more, or hours measured in running times for programmes with a slot time of less than 10 minutes; and
 - 3.6.2 in respect of programmes made available only on **BBC iPlayer** mean hours measured in running times.

Television: original productions

- 3.7 The BBC must ensure that in each Calendar Year the time allocated to the broadcasting of original productions by each **UK Public Television Service** set out in column I below:
- 3.7.1 is not less than the percentage of the total time allocated to the broadcasting of all the programmes for that service specified in column II; and
 - 3.7.2 is not less than the percentage of the total time allocated to the broadcasting of all the programmes for that service in Peak Viewing Time specified in column III.

"Original Productions", in relation to the **UK Public Television Services** taken together, has the same meaning that is specified by the Broadcasting (Original Productions) Order 2004 or any subsequent order under section 278(6) of the Communications Act 2003 in relation to a licensed public service channel.

Column I	Column II	Column III
----------	-----------	------------

Service	Original Productions as a percentage of the hours of all programming	Original Productions in Peak Viewing Time as a percentage of the hours of all programming in Peak Viewing Time
BBC One	75%	90%
BBC Two	75%	90%
BBC Four	65%	-
BBC Parliament	90%	-
BBC News channel	90%	-
CBeebies	70%	-
CBBC	66% in 2023 68% in 2024 and in each subsequent Calendar Year	-
BBC Alba	75%	-
BBC Scotland	75%	-
BBC Three	75%	-

Radio services

3.8 In respect of the **UK Public Radio Services**, the BBC must:

- 3.8.1 provide a broad range of original UK content;
- 3.8.2 support new UK talent and creative innovation, including commissioning new titles and output from a broad range of independent producers;
- 3.8.3 provide a broad range of output covering different genres and content types, including arts, religion, ethics, documentaries,²¹ drama and comedy; and
- 3.8.4 take steps to reach, serve and engage with all audiences.

3.9 In respect of **Radio 1**, the BBC must ensure that:

- 3.9.1 in each Financial Year at least 45% of the music in Daytime is from UK acts;
- 3.9.2 in each Financial Year at least 50% of the music in Daytime is New Music, of which a significant proportion must come from new and emerging UK artists;
- 3.9.3 in each Financial Year it broadcasts at least 3,129 hours of specialist music. For the purpose of this requirement, “specialist music” means music which appeals to

²¹ For illustration only, these documentaries could include programmes on subjects like politics, business, law, finance, health, education, food and farming, international affairs, religion, ethics, travel, gardening, and programmes to help audiences develop their understanding of music and other cultural topics such as history, science, philosophy, film, visual arts and literature.

- specific groups of listeners, and focuses on a specific genre of music or on cutting edge music from a range of genres;
- 3.9.4 in each Financial Year it broadcasts at least 175 new sessions live or recorded within the previous three months (excluding repeats);
- 3.9.5 the station plays a broader range of music than comparable providers, taking into account both the number of plays and the size of the playlist, at both Peak Listening Time and Daytime;²² and
- 3.9.6 it offers major social action campaigns.
- 3.10 In respect of **Radio 2**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 3.10.1 in each Financial Year at least 40% of the music in Daytime is from UK acts;
 - 3.10.2 in each Financial Year at least 20% of the music in Daytime is New Music, of which a significant proportion must come from new and emerging UK artists;
 - 3.10.3 in each Financial Year it broadcasts at least 68 hours of live music or new specially recorded music (excluding repeats);
 - 3.10.4 in each Financial Year it broadcasts at least 1,100 hours of specialist music programmes. For the purpose of this requirement, “specialist music” means music which appeals to specific groups of listeners, and focuses on a specific genre of music or on cutting edge music from a range of genres; and
 - 3.10.5 the station plays a broader range of music than comparable providers, taking into account both the number of plays and the size of the playlist, at both Peak Listening Time and Daytime.²³
- 3.11 In respect of **BBC Radio 3**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 3.11.1 in each Financial Year at least 45% of its musical output is live or specially recorded music; and
 - 3.11.2 it commissions and broadcasts new musical works.
- 3.12 In respect of **BBC Radio 5 Live**, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year live commentary is offered on at least 20 sports.

Transparency requirements

- 3.13 The BBC must set out and publish annually, at the same time as it publishes its Annual Plan, the steps it plans to take during the Financial Year to which the Annual Plan relates to comply with conditions 3.2 to 3.4 and 3.8, including any Significant Changes it plans to make in that year and the reasons for those changes.
- 3.14 In complying with condition 3.13, the BBC must:

²² For the purposes of identifying comparable providers, the description of the Radio 1 service published under Part 1, Schedule 1 to the Agreement, and the audiences it attracts, are key considerations. Taking this approach, our expectation is that a radio service offering a popular music service, featuring new music and appealing to young audiences would be a comparable provider to Radio 1.

²³ For the purposes of identifying comparable providers, the description of the Radio 2 service published under Part 1, Schedule 1 to the Agreement, and the audience it attracts, are key considerations. To the extent that Radio 2 discharges its requirement to play specialist music by playing such music outside Peak Listening Time and Daytime, we would not regard a station specialising in a particular genre of music as a comparable provider.

- 3.14.1 explain its plans for ensuring that each **UK Public Service** is distinctive, including its plans for ensuring that each of **BBC iPlayer**, **BBC Sounds** and **BBC Website** is distinctive;
- 3.14.2 explain how its approach to acquisitions supports distinctiveness and promotes engagement with audiences;
- 3.14.3 set out the hours of First-Run UK Originations it plans to provide on each of **BBC One**, **BBC Two**, **BBC Three**, **BBC Four**, **CBBC**, **CBeebies** and **BBC iPlayer** and explain how this will enable all audiences to benefit from a range of new quality UK content that appeals to them;
- 3.14.4 set out separately for the **UK Public Television Services** taken together and **BBC iPlayer** its plans to provide a range of genres and content types, including music and arts, religion, other specialist factual content and comedy. For each of these specified genres and content types, the BBC must set out the planned hours, the planned hours of First-Run UK Originations and the planned hours of acquired content;
- 3.14.5 set out separately for the **UK Public Television Services** taken together and **BBC iPlayer** its plans to provide a range of genres and content types for children's programming, including drama, factual, entertainment and education. The BBC must set out: (i) for children's programming taken together, the planned hours of acquired content; (ii) for each of the genres and content types specified in this condition, the planned hours and the planned hours of First-Run UK Originations;
- 3.14.6 set out the following information in relation to the **UK Public Radio Services**:
 - 3.14.6.1 planned hours of documentaries (including repeats) and planned hours of new documentaries on each of **Radio 1**, **1Xtra**, **Radio 2**, **Radio 4**, and **BBC 6 Music**;
 - 3.14.6.2 planned hours of arts programming (including repeats) and planned hours of new arts programming on **Radio 2**;
 - 3.14.6.3 planned hours of documentaries on arts and cultural topics (including repeats) and planned hours of new documentaries on arts and cultural topics on **Radio 3**;
 - 3.14.6.4 planned hours of religious programming (including repeats) and planned hours of new religious programming on each of **Radio 2** and **Radio 4**;
 - 3.14.6.5 planned number of live or specially recorded performances on **Radio 3**;
 - 3.14.6.6 number of new musical works it plans to commission and broadcast on **Radio 3**; and
 - 3.14.6.7 plans for social action campaigns on its **UK Public Services**, and in particular **Radio 1**.
- 3.15 The BBC must also publish any Significant Changes which are: (i) planned by the BBC after it has already published information under condition 3.13 for the current Financial Year; and (ii) proposed to be implemented before publication of information under condition 3.13 for the following Financial Year. Publication referred to in this condition must be effected as soon as reasonably practicable after the BBC has made its plans in respect of any such Significant Changes.
- 3.16 The BBC must explain and publish annually, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, a report on the following:
 - 3.16.1 whether it took the steps that it set out under conditions 3.13 and 3.14 during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates, including: (i) whether it made

- Significant Changes from those plans, including those made under condition 3.15;
and (ii) if so, what those changes were and the reasons for those changes;
- 3.16.2 the number of sports it covered with live commentary on **BBC Radio 5 Live** and hours of live commentary for each sport covered on **BBC Radio 5 Live** during that year; and
- 3.16.3 the contribution specialist music made to the distinctiveness of **Radio 1** and **Radio 2** during that year.

Public Purpose 4: To reflect, represent and serve the diverse communities of all of the United Kingdom's nations and regions and, in doing so, support the creative economy across the United Kingdom

Article 6 of the Charter sets out Public Purpose 4: *“The BBC should reflect the diversity of the United Kingdom both in its output and services. In doing so, the BBC should accurately and authentically represent and portray the lives of the people of the United Kingdom today, and raise awareness of the different cultures and alternative viewpoints that make up its society. It should ensure that it provides output and services that meet the needs of the United Kingdom’s nations, regions and communities. The BBC should bring people together for shared experiences and help contribute to the social cohesion and wellbeing of the United Kingdom. In commissioning and delivering output the BBC should invest in the creative economies of each of the nations and contribute to their development.”*

Public Purpose 4 – objectives

In promoting Public Purpose 4, Ofcom considers that the BBC should in particular do the following:

- Objective 1: The BBC should ensure that its UK Public Services reflect the diverse communities of all of the UK's nations and regions across its genres. It should accurately represent and authentically portray the UK's diverse communities and raise awareness of different cultures and viewpoints. In doing so, the BBC should take steps to ensure that its content and programme makers reflect the make-up of different communities from all of the UK's nations and regions;
- Objective 2: The BBC should distribute its investment in a range of productions from across the UK and ensure that it supports sustainable growth in the creative industries across the UK's nations and regions;
- Objective 3: In serving and creating content of interest and relevance to audiences from all of the UK's nations and regions, the BBC should take steps to reach, serve and engage all audiences and make content easy to discover. In Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, this content should include indigenous language content and a broad range of genres.

Public Purpose 4 – regulatory conditions

Ofcom is imposing the following regulatory conditions on the BBC, which the BBC must comply with and which Ofcom will enforce.

- 4.1 In providing the **UK Public Services**, the BBC must comply with:
 - 4.1.1 conditions 4.2 to 4.66 with effect from 1 April 2023 and throughout the Licence Period;
 - 4.1.2 conditions 4.67 to 4.70 with effect from 23 March 2023 until the end of the Licence Period.

Diversity, audience portrayal and representation

- 4.2 The BBC must publish annually, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, how the **UK Public Services** as a whole have reflected, represented and served the diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates. In particular, the BBC must demonstrate how it has:
 - 4.2.1 had regard to the range of diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom. This should include age, disability, race, religion and belief, sex, gender identity,²⁴ sexual orientation and socioeconomic background;
 - 4.2.2 served and delivered content for the range of the diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom;
 - 4.2.3 accurately represented the diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom;
 - 4.2.4 authentically portrayed the diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom; and
 - 4.2.5 raised awareness of the different cultures and alternative viewpoints of the diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom.
- 4.3 The BBC must publish annually, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, a report on the extent to which the BBC has made progress during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates towards meeting its representation and/or portrayal targets, including its on screen and on air targets.
- 4.4 The BBC must publish annually, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, a report on audience satisfaction across the **UK Public Services** as a whole during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates. This must include measurements of audience satisfaction in the following areas:
 - 4.4.1 how the BBC represents, portrays and serves diverse audiences;
 - 4.4.2 how the BBC reflects the diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom on-screen and on-air, with particular regard to first-run content across all genres; and
 - 4.4.3 how the BBC raises awareness of different cultures and viewpoints.
- 4.5 The BBC must publish, at same time as it publishes its Annual Plan, the steps it will take during the Financial Year to which the Annual Plan relates to seek to improve audience

²⁴ “Gender identity” includes the protected characteristic “gender reassignment” as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

satisfaction among audience groups that it identified as less satisfied than other audience groups with the BBC's performance in its report under condition 4.4.

- 4.6 The BBC must publish, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, whether it took the steps that it set out under condition 4.5 during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates and the impact that those steps have had on audience satisfaction in those particular audience groups.
- 4.7 The BBC must establish and comply with a code of practice, approved by Ofcom, setting out the steps the BBC will take when commissioning content across all genres to ensure that such content accurately represents, authentically portrays and reflects the diverse communities of the whole of the United Kingdom. The code of practice must cover commissions produced by the BBC in-house and commissions produced externally.
- 4.8 In particular, the code of practice must set out the steps that the BBC will take, when commissioning content, in respect of:
 - 4.8.1 on-screen portrayal and casting;
 - 4.8.2 workforce diversity of commissioned production teams;
 - 4.8.3 the production and commissioning decision process;
 - 4.8.4 setting expectations of commissioned production teams; and
 - 4.8.5 monitoring compliance by commissioned production teams with the expectations set under condition 4.8.4.
- 4.9 The BBC must monitor its compliance with the code of practice and must report annually to Ofcom on its compliance with the code of practice during the previous Financial Year.
- 4.10 In complying with condition 4.9, the BBC must report on the number of commissions where production teams did not meet expectations set under condition 4.8.4 detailing whether these were internal or external commissions and the steps it has taken in respect of any commissioned production team that did not meet the expectations set under condition 4.8.4.
- 4.11 Ofcom may, at any time, by notification in writing to the BBC:
 - 4.11.1 approve modifications to an approved code where Ofcom considers that the code as so modified would meet the objectives set out in condition 4.7; or
 - 4.11.2 withdraw its approval from a code where Ofcom considers that the code no longer meets the objectives sets out in condition 4.7.
- 4.12 The BBC must monitor and report to Ofcom annually on the diversity of all staff (employees and freelance) of the BBC who are employed in connection with the provision of the **UK Public Services**.²⁵ The report must be in a form specified by Ofcom and must include the following information:
 - 4.12.1 the number of such staff by age, disability, race, religion and belief, sex, gender identity,²⁶ sexual orientation and socioeconomic background;
 - 4.12.2 the job level of such staff by categories to be specified by Ofcom;
 - 4.12.3 the job type of such staff by categories to be specified by Ofcom;
 - 4.12.4 the extent to which the BBC has made progress towards meeting its diversity workforce targets.

²⁵ The UK Public Services do not include the World Service or the BBC's commercial services.

²⁶ "Gender identity" includes the protected characteristic "gender reassignment" as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

- 4.13 Nothing in condition 4.12 requires the BBC to provide any information to Ofcom where such provision would be in breach of relevant data protection legislation.
- 4.14 Ofcom may publish any report provided by the BBC under conditions 4.9 or 4.12.

Programme making in the nations and regions: network television programmes

United Kingdom (outside the M25 Area)

- 4.15 The BBC must ensure that in each Calendar Year:
- 4.15.1 at least 50% of the hours of Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom are made outside the M25 Area;
 - 4.15.2 the Network Programmes that are made in the United Kingdom outside the M25 Area (taken together) constitute a suitable range of programmes; and
 - 4.15.3 at least 50% of the Expenditure of the BBC on Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom is referable to programme production at different production centres outside the M25 Area.

England (outside the M25 Area)

- 4.16 The BBC must ensure that:
- 4.16.1 in each Calendar Year at least 30% of the hours of Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom are made in England (outside the M25 Area); and
 - 4.16.2 in each Calendar Year at least 30% of the Expenditure of the BBC on Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom is referable to programme production at different production centres in England (outside the M25 Area).
- 4.17 The BBC may request in writing that the percentage of hours of Network Programmes specified in condition 4.16.1 be reduced in respect of a particular Calendar Year. Ofcom will consider any such request and may agree to the request where it appears to Ofcom that in the particular circumstances of the case the reduction would secure a suitable proportion of Network Programmes.²⁷

Scotland

- 4.18 The BBC must ensure that in each Calendar Year:
- 4.18.1 at least 8% of the hours of Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom are made in Scotland; and
 - 4.18.2 at least 8% of the Expenditure of the BBC on Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom is referable to programme production at different production centres in Scotland.
- 4.19 The BBC may request in writing that the percentage of hours of Network Programmes specified in condition 4.18.1 be reduced in respect of a particular Calendar Year. Ofcom will consider any such request and may agree to the request where it appears to Ofcom that in

²⁷ For illustration only, an example of when the BBC might wish to make such a request could be if in a particular year it proposed to commission a high cost drama to be made in England (outside the M25 Area) but its proposal would result in the BBC being unable to meet the specified percentage of hours in England (outside the M25 Area) for that year.

the particular circumstances of the case the reduction would secure a suitable proportion of Network Programmes.²⁸

Wales

4.20 The BBC must ensure that:

- 4.20.1 in each Calendar Year at least 5% of the hours of Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom are made in Wales; and
- 4.20.2 in each Calendar Year at least 5% of the Expenditure of the BBC on Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom is referable to programme production at different production centres in Wales.

4.21 The BBC may request in writing that the percentage of hours of Network Programmes specified in condition 4.20.1 be reduced in respect of a particular Calendar Year. Ofcom will consider any such request and may agree to the request where it appears to Ofcom that in the particular circumstances of the case the reduction would secure a suitable proportion of Network Programmes.²⁹

Northern Ireland

4.22 The BBC must ensure that:

- 4.22.1 in each Calendar Year at least 3% of the hours of Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom are made in Northern Ireland; and
- 4.22.2 in each Calendar Year at least 3% of the Expenditure of the BBC on Network Programmes made in the United Kingdom is referable to programme production at different production centres in Northern Ireland.

4.23 The BBC may request in writing that the percentage of hours of Network Programmes specified in condition 4.22.1 be reduced in respect of a particular Calendar Year. Ofcom will consider any such request and may agree to the request where it appears to Ofcom that in the particular circumstances of the case the reduction would secure a suitable proportion of Network Programmes.³⁰

Production centres

4.24 The different programme production centres to which the Expenditure referred to in conditions 4.15.3, 4.16.2, 4.18.2, 4.20.2 and 4.22.2 is referable must constitute a suitable range of such production centres.

BBC Alba and BBC Scotland weighting

4.25 For the purposes of conditions 4.15 to 4.23, the hours of, and Expenditure on, Network Programmes made only for **BBC Alba** and **BBC Scotland** must be zero-weighted.

²⁸ For illustration only, an example of when the BBC might wish to make such a request could be if in a particular year it proposed to commission a high cost drama to be made in Scotland but its proposal would result in the BBC being unable to meet the specified percentage of hours in Scotland for that year.

²⁹ For illustration only, an example of when the BBC might wish to make such a request could be if in a particular year it proposed to commission a high cost drama to be made in Wales but its proposal would result in the BBC being unable to meet the specified percentage of hours in Wales for that year.

³⁰ For illustration only, an example of when the BBC might wish to make such a request could be if in a particular year it proposed to commission a high cost drama to be made in Northern Ireland but its proposal would result in the BBC being unable to meet the specified percentage of hours in Northern Ireland for that year.

Co-commissions

- 4.26 For the purpose of conditions 4.15 to 4.25, content which is co-commissioned between: (i) **BBC Scotland, BBC Alba, or a national or regional variation of a UK Public Television Service**; and (ii) any other **UK Public Television Service** must be treated as follows:
- 4.26.1 Expenditure on such content must be allocated to a service in proportion to the percentage contribution it made to the total Expenditure; and
 - 4.26.2 hours of such content are to be classed as Network Programme hours.

Guidance

- 4.27 In complying with conditions 4.15 to 4.26, the BBC must have regard to any guidance that may be issued by Ofcom.

Programme making in the nations and regions: radio services

- 4.28 In respect of the **UK Public Radio Services** which are designed for audiences across the UK³¹ and **BBC Sounds** taken together, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year at least 30% of relevant spend is incurred outside the M25 Area. For the purposes of conditions 4.28 to 4.30, “relevant spend” means expenditure on programme production (not including expenditure on centrally funded costs).
- 4.29 In meeting the requirement in condition 4.28, the BBC must ensure that some of the relevant spend is incurred in respect of each of the following radio services:
- 4.29.1 Radio 1;
 - 4.29.2 Radio 2;
 - 4.29.3 Radio 3;
 - 4.29.4 Radio 4;
 - 4.29.5 BBC Radio 5 Live.
- 4.30 In respect of **Radio 3**, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year at least 28% of relevant spend is incurred outside the M25 Area.

Programming for the nations and regions

- 4.31 In respect of **BBC One** and **BBC Two** taken together, the BBC must ensure that:
- 4.31.1 in each Calendar Year, at least 5,000 hours are allocated to programmes which are of National or Regional Interest;
 - 4.31.2 those programmes include a suitable range of programmes (including regional news programmes);
 - 4.31.3 at least 95% of those programmes consist of programmes made in the nation or region in relation to which those programmes are to be of National or Regional Interest;
 - 4.31.4 in each Calendar Year, at least 200 hours of those programmes consist of non-news programming in Peak Viewing Time; and
 - 4.31.5 in each Calendar Year, at least 150 hours of those programmes consist of non-news programming at times immediately preceding or following Peak Viewing Time.

³¹ Radio 1; 1Xtra; Radio 2; Radio 3; Radio 4; BBC 4 Extra; BBC Radio 5 Live; BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Extra; BBC 6 Music; BBC Asian Network.

- 4.32 The BBC must ensure that in each Calendar Year the time allocated to programmes which are of National or Regional Interest in accordance with condition 4.31 includes at least 3,900 hours of news of National or Regional Interest to be broadcast at intervals throughout the day on **BBC One**, of which at least 1,700 hours must be in Peak Viewing Time.
- 4.33 In complying with conditions 4.31 and 4.32, the BBC must have regard to any guidance that may be issued by Ofcom.
- 4.34 In respect of **BBC Parliament**, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year at least 300 hours are allocated to proceedings of the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and Senedd Cymru.
- 4.35 In respect of each **UK Public Radio Service** specified in condition 4.36, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year, the proportion of content which is speech content on that service is:
- 4.35.1 on average at least 60% in Core Hours, except in relation to **BBC Radio nan Gàidheal** for which the BBC must ensure that the proportion of content which is speech content is on average at least 40% in Core Hours; and
 - 4.35.2 100% during the Breakfast Peak.
- 4.36 The following **UK Public Radio Services** are specified for the purpose of condition 4.35:
- 4.36.1 BBC Radio Scotland;
 - 4.36.2 BBC Radio nan Gàidheal;
 - 4.36.3 BBC Radio Wales;
 - 4.36.4 BBC Radio Cymru;
 - 4.36.5 BBC Radio Ulster; and
 - 4.36.6 BBC Radio Foyle.

England³²

- 4.37 In relation to each of **BBC iPlayer**, **BBC Sounds**, the **BBC Website** and the variations of **BBC One** for the English regions, the BBC must provide content of interest and relevance to audiences in the English regions.
- 4.38 In respect of **BBC Online**, the BBC must ensure that:
- 4.38.1 it provides news and information for the English regions; and
 - 4.38.2 it provides dedicated coverage of sport for the English regions.
- 4.39 In complying with conditions 4.37 and 4.38, the BBC must make its online content easily discoverable.
- 4.40 In respect of each **BBC Local Radio** station, the BBC must ensure that:
- 4.40.1 in each Financial Year on average at least 60% of the content during Core Hours is speech content;
 - 4.40.2 in each Financial Year 100% of the content during Breakfast Peak is speech content;
 - 4.40.3 it provides news bulletins and information of particular relevance to the area and communities it serves regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day;
 - 4.40.4 it provides a significant amount of news and information of particular relevance to the area and communities it serves during the Breakfast Peak;

³² BBC Local Radio for the Channel Islands has been included under these conditions.

- 4.40.5 it provides other content of particular relevance to the area and communities it serves; and
- 4.40.6 in each Financial Year at least 4,954 hours are allocated on each **BBC Local Radio** station to original, locally-made programming. For the purpose of this requirement, “original, locally-made programming” includes programming shared with neighbouring stations broadcast between 06:00 and 19:00.
- 4.41 The requirement in condition 4.40.6 applies to the following **BBC Local Radio** stations as though the minimum requirement for original, locally-made programming was the time shown in the corresponding entry.

BBC Local Radio station	Minimum requirement for original, locally-made programmes
BBC Radio Guernsey	4,171 hours
BBC Radio Jersey	4,171 hours
BBC Radio Somerset	3,650 hours

Scotland

- 4.42 In relation to each of **BBC iPlayer**, **BBC Sounds**, the **BBC Website**, **BBC One Scotland**, **BBC Scotland**, **BBC Alba**, **BBC Radio Scotland** and **BBC Radio nan Gàidheal**, the BBC must provide content of interest and relevance to audiences in Scotland, including a broad range of content which reflects Scotland’s culture.
- 4.43 In complying with condition 4.42, in relation to each of **BBC Sounds**, **BBC Radio Scotland** and **BBC Radio nan Gàidheal**, the BBC must provide music of particular relevance to audiences in Scotland.
- 4.44 In respect of **BBC Online**, the BBC must provide:
- 4.44.1 news and information for Scotland;
 - 4.44.2 dedicated coverage of sport for Scotland; and
 - 4.44.3 content in Gaelic.
- 4.45 In complying with conditions 4.42 to 4.44, the BBC must make its online content easily discoverable.
- 4.46 In respect of **BBC One Scotland**, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year:
- 4.46.1 at least 290 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes; and
 - 4.46.2 it provides programmes other than news and current affairs including some First-Run UK Originations.
- 4.47 In respect of **BBC Scotland**, the BBC must ensure that:
- 4.47.1 in each Calendar Year at least 90% of First-Run UK Originations are made in Scotland;
 - 4.47.2 in each Calendar Year, at least 125 hours are allocated to news in Peak Viewing time; and
 - 4.47.3 it provides programmes other than news and current affairs including some First-Run UK Originations.
- 4.48 In respect of **BBC Alba**, the BBC must ensure that:

- 4.48.1 the service includes live news programmes each weekday evening, including during Peak Viewing Time, and a longer news review at the weekends; and
- 4.48.2 it provides programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language.
- 4.49 In respect of **BBC Radio Scotland**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 4.49.1 in each Financial Year at least 2,607 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes (including repeats);
 - 4.49.2 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day; and
 - 4.49.3 it provides several regional opt-outs each weekday, offering news, sport and information, and some regional opt-out community programming in the evenings.
- 4.50 In respect of **BBC Radio nan Gàidheal**, the BBC must ensure that it includes news regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day, particularly between 07:30 to 08:30 and 16:00 to 19:00 on Mondays to Fridays and 09:00 to 11:00 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Wales

- 4.51 In relation to each of **BBC iPlayer**, **BBC Sounds**, the **BBC Website**, **BBC One Wales**, **BBC Two Wales**, **BBC Radio Wales**, **BBC Radio Cymru** and **BBC Radio Cymru 2**, the BBC must provide content of interest and relevance to audiences in Wales, including a broad range of content which reflects Wales' culture.
- 4.52 In complying with condition 4.51, in relation to each of **BBC Sounds**, **BBC Radio Wales**, **BBC Radio Cymru** and **BBC Radio Cymru 2**, the BBC must provide music of particular relevance to audiences in Wales.
- 4.53 In respect of **BBC Online**, the BBC must provide:
 - 4.53.1 news and information for Wales;
 - 4.53.2 dedicated coverage of sport for Wales; and
 - 4.53.3 content in Welsh.
- 4.54 In complying with conditions 4.51 to 4.53, the BBC must make its online content easily discoverable.
- 4.55 In respect of **BBC One Wales**, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year:
 - 4.55.1 at least 275 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes; and
 - 4.55.2 it provides programmes other than news and current affairs including some First-Run UK Originations.
- 4.56 In respect of **BBC Two Wales**, the BBC must ensure that it provides programmes other than news and current affairs including some First-Run UK Originations.
- 4.57 In respect of **BBC Radio Wales**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 4.57.1 in each Financial Year at least 1,669 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes (including repeats); and
 - 4.57.2 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.
- 4.58 In respect of **BBC Radio Cymru**, the BBC must ensure that:
 - 4.58.1 in each Financial Year at least 1,199 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes (including repeats); and
 - 4.58.2 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day.

- 4.58A In respect of **BBC Radio Cymru 2**, the BBC must ensure that it provides daily and regular news bulletins Monday to Saturday and daily news bulletins on Sunday.

Northern Ireland

- 4.59 In relation to each of **BBC iPlayer**, **BBC Sounds**, the **BBC Website**, **BBC One Northern Ireland**, **BBC Two Northern Ireland**, **BBC Radio Ulster** and **BBC Radio Foyle**, the BBC must provide content of interest and relevance to audiences in Northern Ireland, including a broad range of content which reflects Northern Ireland's culture.
- 4.60 In complying with condition 4.59, in relation to each of **BBC Sounds**, **BBC Radio Ulster** and **BBC Radio Foyle**, the BBC must provide music of particular relevance to audiences in Northern Ireland.
- 4.61 In respect of **BBC Online**, the BBC must provide:
- 4.61.1 news and information for Northern Ireland;
 - 4.61.2 dedicated coverage of sport for Northern Ireland; and
 - 4.61.3 content in Irish and Ulster-Scots.
- 4.62 In complying with conditions 4.59 to 4.61, the BBC must make its online content easily discoverable.
- 4.63 In respect of **BBC One Northern Ireland**, the BBC must ensure that in each Financial Year:
- 4.63.1 at least 310 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes; and
 - 4.63.2 it provides programmes other than news and current affairs including some First-Run UK Originations.
- 4.64 In respect of **BBC Two Northern Ireland**, the BBC must ensure that it provides programmes other than news and current affairs including some First-Run UK Originations.
- 4.65 The BBC must ensure that it provides Irish language programming and Ulster-Scots programming on one or more of the following services: **BBC One Northern Ireland** and **BBC Two Northern Ireland**.
- 4.66 In respect of **BBC Radio Ulster** and **BBC Radio Foyle**, the BBC must ensure that:
- 4.66.1 in each Financial Year at least 1,825 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes (including repeats) on Radio Ulster;
 - 4.66.2 in each Financial Year at least 710 hours are allocated to news and current affairs programmes (including repeats) on Radio Foyle;
 - 4.66.3 it provides news bulletins regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day on each of **BBC Radio Ulster** and **BBC Radio Foyle**; and
 - 4.66.4 in each Financial Year at least 240 hours are allocated to indigenous minority language programming, including Irish and Ulster-Scots output. For the purpose of this requirement, "indigenous minority language programming" includes repeats and acquisitions.

Transparency requirements for programming for the nations and regions

- 4.67 The BBC must publish annually, at the same time as it publishes its Annual Plan, the steps it plans to take during the Financial Year to which the Annual Plan relates to provide content of interest and relevance to audiences in Scotland, in Wales, in Northern Ireland and in the

regions of England, including any Significant Changes it plans to make in that year and the reasons for those changes.

- 4.68 In complying with condition 4.67, the BBC must include the following:
- 4.68.1 its plans in relation to each of **BBC iPlayer**, **BBC Sounds** and the **BBC Website** to provide content of interest and relevance to audiences in the nations and regions;
 - 4.68.2 for all the variations of **BBC One** for the English regions taken together, the hours of news it plans to provide;
 - 4.68.3 for each of the following: (i) all the variations of **BBC One** for the English regions taken together; (ii) **BBC Scotland**, (iii) **BBC One Scotland**, (iv) **BBC One Wales**, (v) **BBC Two Wales**, (vi) **BBC One Northern Ireland**, (vii) **BBC Two Northern Ireland** and (viii) **BBC iPlayer**, its plans to provide a range of non-news programming. As part of this explanation, the BBC must set out:
 - 4.68.3.1 planned hours of programmes other than news and current affairs;
 - 4.68.3.2 planned hours of current affairs programming;
 - 4.68.3.3 planned hours of First-Run UK Originations of programmes other than news and current affairs;
 - 4.68.3.4 planned hours of First-Run UK Originations of current affairs programming; and
 - 4.68.3.5 a list of the specific genres it plans to provide.
 - 4.68.4 planned hours of Network Programmes specifically aimed at audiences in the nations and regions.
 - 4.68.5 for each of **BBC Alba** and **BBC iPlayer**, its plans to provide Gaelic programming and programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language. As part of this explanation, the BBC must set out:
 - 4.68.5.1 planned hours of programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language;
 - 4.68.5.2 planned hours of First-Run UK Originations programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language;
 - 4.68.5.3 planned hours of Gaelic programming; and
 - 4.68.5.4 planned hours of First-Run UK Originations of Gaelic programming.
 - 4.68.6 for each of **BBC One Northern Ireland**, **BBC Two Northern Ireland** and **BBC iPlayer**, its plans to provide Irish and Ulster-Scots programming. As part of this explanation, the BBC must set out:
 - 4.68.6.1 planned hours of Irish and of Ulster-Scots programming; and
 - 4.68.6.2 planned hours of First-Run UK Originations of Irish and of Ulster-Scots programming.
 - 4.68.7 the steps it plans to take to comply with conditions 4.39, 4.45, 4.54 and 4.62.
 - 4.68.8 its plans to deliver news on **BBC Radio Cymru 2**. As part of this explanation, the BBC must set out planned frequency of news bulletins.
- 4.69 The BBC must also publish any Significant Changes which are: (i) planned by the BBC after it has already published information under condition 4.67 for the current Financial Year; and (ii) proposed to be implemented before publication of information under condition 4.67 for the following Financial Year. Publication referred to in this condition must be effected as soon as reasonably practicable after the BBC has made its plans in respect of any such Significant Changes.

- 4.70 The BBC must publish annually, no later than two weeks after it publishes its Annual Report, a report on whether it took the steps that it set out under conditions 4.67 and 4.68 during the Financial Year to which the Annual Report relates, including: (i) whether it made Significant Changes from those plans, including those made under condition 4.69 and (ii) if so, what those changes were and the reasons for those changes.

Definitions and interpretation

5.1 In this Licence, unless the context requires otherwise:

“the Agreement” means the agreement between the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the BBC made on 7 December 2016 as amended on 26 May 2022;

“the BBC” means the British Broadcasting Corporation;

“BBC iPlayer” means the audio-visual service that forms part of BBC Online;

“BBC One Northern Ireland” means the version of BBC One for Northern Ireland;

“BBC One Scotland” means the version of BBC One for Scotland;

“BBC One Wales” means the version of BBC One for Wales;

“BBC Sounds” means the audio service that forms part of BBC Online;

“BBC Two Northern Ireland” means the version of BBC Two for Northern Ireland;

“BBC Two Wales” means the version of BBC Two for Wales;

“BBC Website” means the bbc.co.uk website and related applications that form part of BBC Online;

“Breakfast Peak” means 07:00 to 08:30 on Mondays to Fridays and, in relation to BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, 07:30 to 08:30 on Mondays to Fridays;

a **“Calendar Year”** means a period of 12 months starting on 1 January;

“the Charter” means the Royal Charter for the continuance of the BBC for the period ending on 31 December 2027;

“the Christmas Period” means any 14 calendar day period starting in December and ending in January;

“Core Hours” means 06:00 to 19:00 on Mondays to Fridays and, in relation to BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, 07:30 to 19:00 on Mondays to Fridays;

“Daytime” means:

a) 06:00 to 18:00 in relation to a UK Public Television Service;

b) 06:00 to 19:00 on Mondays to Fridays and 08:00 to 14:00 on Saturdays and Sundays in relation to a UK Public Radio Service;

“Expenditure”, in relation to a programme, means:

a) expenditure which constitutes an investment in or is otherwise attributable to the making of the programme, or

b) expenditure on the commissioning or other acquisition of the programme or on the acquisition of a right to include it in a service or to have it broadcast;

a **“Financial Year”** means a period of 12 months starting on 1 April, with the first such period starting on 1 April 2023;

“First-Run UK Originations” means programmes which are commissioned by or for a UK Public Service and have not previously been shown on television or made available online in the United Kingdom;

“the Licence Period” means the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2027;

“the M25 Area” means the area the outer boundary of which is represented by the London Orbital Motorway (M25);

“the Mission” means the mission of the BBC as set out in Article 5 of the Charter;

A programme is of **“National or Regional Interest”** if: (a) it is of particular interest to persons living in any one of the following nations or regions – (i) Northern Ireland; (ii) Scotland; (iii) Wales; (iv) any region of England in relation to which there is a regional variation of the television service concerned; and (b) it is included in the variation of the service that relates to that nation or region;

“Network Programmes” means programmes made for viewing on any of the UK Public Television Services, other than programmes made for viewing only on a variation of such a service that relates to one of the following: (a) Northern Ireland; (b) Scotland; (c) Wales; (d) any region of England;

A music track is to be considered **“New Music”** for a period of either:

- a) 12 months from first release (whether by physical, radio, download or streaming means), or
- b) 6 weeks from the date it first enters the Top 20 of the UK Official Singles Chart, whichever is sooner;

“Ofcom” means the Office of Communications established under the Office of Communications Act 2002;

“Peak Listening Time” means 06:00 to 10:00 and 16:00 to 19:00 on Mondays to Fridays, and 07:00 to 11:00 on Saturdays and Sundays;

“Peak Viewing Time” means;

- a) 18:00 to 22:30 in relation to all UK Public Television Services except for BBC Four;
- b) 19:00 to 24:00 in relation to BBC Four;

“Public Holiday” means Christmas Day, Good Friday, or a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971;

“the Public Purposes” means the public purposes of the BBC as set out in Article 6 of the Charter;

a **“Significant Change”** to the BBC’s planned or actual provision means a change which could affect how the BBC meets the needs of audiences;

“the UK Public Radio Services” means those UK Public Services which consist of radio programme services, and **“UK Public Radio Service”** means any of those services;

“the UK Public Services” means the services included in the list maintained and published by the BBC under Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Agreement, as amended by the BBC from time to time;

“the UK Public Television Services” means those UK Public Services which consist of television programme services, and **“UK Public Television Service”** means any of those services.

- 5.2 The term **“regularly at frequent intervals throughout the day”** is used in the following conditions: 1.9.3, 1.10.3, 1.11.2, 1.12, 1.15.2, 1.16.2, 4.40.3, 4.49.2, 4.50, 4.57.2, 4.58.2, and 4.66.3. References to that term should not be read as requiring the obligation in each of those conditions to be carried out with the same regularity and frequency as the obligations in the other conditions. Instead, the regularity and frequency are to be determined by the BBC and to be assessed by Ofcom on a case-by-case basis having regard to what is appropriate in the context of each relevant obligation.
- 5.3 A condition should not be read as contributing only to the Public Purpose under which it is listed. A particular condition may contribute to more than one Public Purpose in the operating licence.
- 5.4 Terms used in this Licence have the same meaning as in the Charter and the Agreement, unless the context requires otherwise.
- 5.5 Words in the singular include the plural.
- 5.6 References to particular legislation should be read as referring to that legislation as amended or re-enacted from time to time.
- 5.7 Headings are for convenience only and do not form part of the regulatory conditions.