

BBC Two

Part I: Key characteristics of the service

1. Remit

BBC Two's remit is to be a mixed-genre channel appealing to a broad adult audience with programmes of depth and substance. It should carry the greatest amount and range of knowledge-building programming of any BBC television channel, complemented by distinctive comedy, drama and arts programming.

2. Scope of the Licence

BBC Two should be available for 24 hours every day. It should be transmitted free to air for general reception in the UK as a live broadcast on analogue and digital television and it may be simulcast on fixed and mobile internet protocol networks.

It may also offer its broadcast content on fixed and mobile internet protocol networks or via other platforms¹ for seven days after it has been broadcast. On the same platforms, it may allow users retrospectively or prospectively via pre-booking to download multiple episodes of first-run series (known as 'series stacking')² until a date no later than seven days after the last episode in the relevant series. The aggregate volume of such "series stacked" content must represent no more than 15% of all television content offered on demand. On the internet, it may give users 30 days after downloading the content to access it for the first time and may allow users to repeatedly consume downloaded content for up to seven days after first access.

It should offer programme-related content on bbc.co.uk.³ Some programmes should have interactive television features available on digital platforms.

¹ Provision by particular providers over certain platforms has been specifically approved by the Trust in its On-Demand public value test of April 2007. Content may also in future be syndicated to other providers and platforms over the internet, in accordance with the Trust's Syndication Policy for BBC on-demand content.

² The Trust's guidelines for which programmes may be included in series stacking are those where the series has a distinct run, with a beginning and an end and a clear 'narrative arc' or those with exceptionally high impact. These should cover a broad range of programmes, in terms of genre and appeal.

³ This includes the offer of some news and current affairs output on-demand for an unlimited time period after initial broadcast. Any expansion of this offering will require the approval of the BBC Trust.

3. Service budget

BBC Two has an annual service budget of £421.4 million.

Any planned or actual change in annual expenditure on the service of more than 10% in real value requires approval from the BBC Trust and may entail variation of this Service Licence. This parameter of change is set to allow variations in spending which arise from regular, cyclical factors such as spending on major sports events, a reasonable level of operational flexibility (e.g. programme scheduling) and changes in accounting policy. Allowing for these factors, the Trust may judge that planned or actual change in annual expenditure of less than 10% should require its approval if the implications of this are significant for the character of the service or its market.

4. Overview of aims and objectives

BBC Two programmes should exhibit some or all of the following characteristics: high quality, original, challenging, innovative and engaging, and it should nurture UK talent.

BBC Two should deliver its remit with factual programming that broadens horizons. There should be peaktime coverage of science, history, business, arts and culture, religion, passions and leisure pursuits, as well as documentaries and current affairs. The channel should work with BBC Four in order to maximise the impact of some of its programming, in particular in factual and the arts.

BBC Two should provide regular in-depth news analysis and long-form journalism, including news analysis on weekday evenings to complement BBC One's late news bulletin.

Its comedy output should offer established talent the opportunity to experiment and its drama should be characterised by strong authorship and individual voices. It should cover major sporting events, interrupting its regular schedule at times for extended coverage.

Together with BBC One, it should offer children's programmes at convenient times for analogue viewers.

BBC Two should reflect the UK's nations and regions by offering regular opt-outs to meet the particular needs of audiences in different parts of the UK.

The channel should ensure that its factual, music and arts output reflects international themes and it should show high quality, non-UK output across a range of genres.

BBC Two should enhance its output – particularly factual output - with interactive content.

In order to highlight the benefits of digital to the non-digital audience, it should show some of the best output from the BBC's digital channels and use its airtime to promote the take-up of digital platforms. It should use interactive technologies to encourage audiences to engage more deeply with its programming.

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BBC Two is committed to commissioning output from outside the M25 area and from independent suppliers, in accord with the BBC's statutory commitments⁴ and the operation of the BBC's In-house Guarantee and Window of Creative Competition.

⁴ All statutory commitments are set out in Annex II of this licence

Part II: Contribution to public value

5. Contribution to the promotion of the BBC's public purposes

5.1 Promoting education and learning

BBC Two should make a very important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience.

It should work closely with BBC Four, in particular in factual and arts output. For example, between the two channels there will sometimes be complementary programming during thematic seasons or alongside landmark output. They will also show a range of pre-planned cross-channel repeats designed to increase the reach and impact of its programmes with the audience.

It should often assume its audiences know something about topics being covered and take a more challenging approach than BBC One. It should employ a range of approaches to factual output to maximise its impact, from landmark series to single documentary, as well as experimenting with new formats. Its factual output should enable and encourage informal learning. The channel should extend this learning by supporting its main factual output with interactive services, and by alerting audiences to other linked BBC content. It should support pan-BBC learning and social action campaigns.

Alongside BBC One, BBC Two should show output from the BBC's children's channels at appropriate times for analogue viewers.

BBC Two should support the BBC's formal learning strategy.

Conditions

BBC Two should:

- With BBC One broadcast at least 1,500 hours of children's programming each year⁵
- Broadcast at least 520 hours of new factual programmes each year⁶

⁵ This output includes acquisitions and repeats

⁶ This output includes acquisitions

5.2 Stimulating creativity and cultural excellence

BBC Two should make a very important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience.

Arts coverage should be scheduled regularly in peaktime. Arts output should include topical arts reportage as well as a wide range of series and special events. BBC Two's coverage of music should aim to bring classical and contemporary works to a broad audience. Its drama commissioning should stimulate high quality distinctive writing. Its comedy should encourage established talent to experiment and, from time to time, it should introduce new comedy to the mainstream. It should meet audience appetite for British film through a close association with BBC Films.

BBC Two should also stimulate creativity by the BBC's statutory commitment to original programming and to independent supply.

Conditions

BBC Two should:

- Broadcast at least 200 hours of arts and music programming each year⁷

5.3 Sustaining citizenship and civil society

BBC Two should make an important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience, through its regular output of in-depth, accurate, impartial and independent news analysis and current affairs that explore a wide range of perspectives and issues. Current affairs output should aim to cover a broad range of international issues. The channel should also offer coverage of Westminster, the devolved chambers and of the major political party conferences.

Statutory commitments⁸

- BBC Two contributes to a shared statutory commitment to a minimum level of current affairs output with BBC One in peaktime and across all hours.

⁷ This output includes repeats and acquisitions

⁸ All statutory commitments are set out in Annex II of this licence. The levels of each commitment is published in the BBC's Statements of Programme Policy each year

5.4 Reflecting the UK's nations, regions and communities

BBC Two should make an important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience.

Its output should explore many aspects of the UK's diversity including religion, ethics, and the issues facing minority groups. Some of this output should be in peaktime. Its schedule should include regular opt-outs to allow the scheduling of programmes that meet the particular needs and interests of audiences in the nations and regions.

It should offer coverage of the UK's biggest sporting events and those which bring communities of sporting interest together. In doing so, from time to time it should aim to encourage active participation in sporting activities.

BBC Two should encourage the formation of communities of interest by, for example, enabling online debate and the exchange of knowledge on topics arising from its programming. Its sports coverage should include an important commitment to minority sports.

BBC Two contributes to a shared statutory commitment to a minimum level of regional programming, both in peaktime, the hours adjacent to peaktime and across all hours with BBC One. BBC Two should support the BBC's statutory commitment to commission a range of output from outside the M25.⁹

Conditions

BBC Two should:

- With BBC One, broadcast at least 110 hours of religious programmes each year¹⁰

5.5 Bringing the UK to the world and the world to the UK

BBC Two should make an important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience primarily by bringing the world to the UK. BBC Two's current affairs output should be given due prominence and follow a diverse international agenda, exploring both significant news stories and emerging international affairs as well as human interest stories that shed light on global issues. BBC Two should also regularly cover international stories in its news analysis.

BBC Two should ensure that its factual, music and arts output reflect international themes, and the channel should show high quality non-UK output across a range of genres, including feature films, sport, children's, drama and comedy, when available at reasonable cost.

⁹ All statutory commitments are set out in Annex II of this licence

¹⁰ This output includes repeats and acquisitions.

5.6 Emerging communications

The BBC's sixth public purpose is defined in the Charter as "in promoting its other purposes, helping to deliver to the public the benefit of emerging communications technologies and services and, in addition, taking a leading role in the switchover to digital television".

BBC Two should contribute to the promotion of this purpose in a variety of ways which are described in this Service Licence.

6. Annexes to this Licence

6.1 Annex I - Performance assessment

The performance of BBC Two will be assessed by the Trust using the framework described in Annex I. BBC Two's compliance with any Conditions, as described in section 5, will also be measured on an annual basis and reported in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The BBC Trust will expect BBC Two to comply with the commitments described in sections 4 and 5 of the Service Licence. The BBC Trust will monitor compliance with these commitments retrospectively as part of its periodic service reviews and/or on an exceptional basis if there is evidence or allegation of non-compliance.

6.2. Annex II - Statutory commitments

Details of statutory quotas and other obligations to be fulfilled by BBC Two, in conjunction with other BBC services, are set out in Annex II.

6.3. Annex III - BBC Two in the nations

A separate Annex for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales sets out the remit and commitments for the service as it is offered by BBC Two in each of these nations.

7. Operation of this Service Licence by the BBC Trust

For details of how the BBC Trust operates this Service Licence, please see the Service Licence Operating Framework. This is available from www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust or upon request from the BBC Trust Unit.

Annex I: Performance measurement framework

Introduction

The BBC Trust has the function of assessing the performance of the Executive Board in delivering the BBC's services and activities and holding the Executive Board to account for its performance.¹¹ It will use the framework below as the basis for its assessment of BBC Two.

The framework is based around the four drivers of public value: Reach, Quality, Impact and Value for money and it includes measurement of the five content characteristics, as described in the BBC Agreement¹²: high quality, challenging, original, innovative and engaging.

The Trust can amend this framework without this constituting formal variation to this Service Licence.

Performance measurement framework

Reach: BBC Two should contribute towards the maintenance of combined BBC weekly reach¹³ at over 90% by aiming to maintain its own *weekly reach*.

It should contribute towards on-demand consumption of content. This will be measured by reference to:

- seven-day television catch-up over the internet – weekly reach amongst all television households;
- simulcast television over the internet – weekly reach amongst all television households;
- seven-day television catch-up over cable – weekly reach amongst all television households.

In addition, its overall reach should include estimated on-demand usage.

Quality: audience *approval* of BBC Two and perceptions of it as *high quality* and *innovative*. Also, the proportion of *originated programmes* across all hours.¹⁴

Impact: audience perceptions of BBC Two as *engaging* and *challenging*.

Value for money: BBC Two's *cost per viewer hour*.

¹¹ Charter, article 24 (c)

¹² Agreement, clause 14

¹³ For all BBC services

¹⁴ Including repeats

Annex II: Statutory commitments

In addition to the conditions and commitments described in this Service Licence, BBC Two has, or contributes to the fulfilment of, a number of statutory commitments each calendar year. The exact level of each annual commitment is published by the BBC in its Statement of Programme Policy each year.

- A minimum percentage of qualifying hours are to be provided by independent producers
- A minimum percentage of all hours, and peaktime hours are to be originations (first shows and repeats)
- A minimum percentage of relevant programme production budgets, representing a percentage of hours of productions by volume, must be spent outside the M25
- To maintain the current broad range of programmes produced outside the M25, and broad range of different production centres used across the UK
- A minimum percentage of qualifying hours to have subtitling, signing and audio description television access services

BBC Two shares the following commitments with BBC One:

- BBC One and BBC Two must broadcast a minimum number of hours of regional programmes in peaktime, plus a further number of hours at times adjacent to peaktime (i.e. the hour either side of peaktime), excluding news on BBC One
- BBC One and BBC Two combined will deliver a minimum number of hours of network current affairs programming, including a minimum number of hours in peaktime
- BBC One and BBC Two must broadcast a minimum number of hours of regional programming across the range of genres
- A minimum percentage of regional programmes must be made in the relevant area (BBC One and BBC Two commitment)

Annex III: BBC Two in the nations
Annex III (i)

BBC Two Northern Ireland

Part I: Key characteristics of the service

1. Remit

BBC Two Northern Ireland (NI) provides specialist programming which reflects the needs and interests of audiences in Northern Ireland, and which complements the range and appeal of network programmes on BBC Two NI.

2. Scope of this Licence

See BBC Two main Licence. BBC Two NI should be available for viewers in Northern Ireland.

3. Overview of aims and objectives

BBC Two NI should provide regular coverage of political developments in Northern Ireland and the workings of Northern Ireland's political institutions. It should showcase the diversity of sporting interests in Northern Ireland and enable extended coverage of sporting events.

It should provide a platform for artists in Northern Ireland, including performance in music and by new comedy talent and reflect cultural life in Northern Ireland through arts documentaries and coverage of cultural events.

It should provide programming which reflects and explores different aspects of social and community life.

It should provide a platform for formal learning with a portfolio of programmes targeted at all age groups from reception to Key Stage 4.

It should be the key BBC channel for programming in the Irish and Ulster Scots languages and which reflects the needs and interests of these communities.

These aims and objectives are typically achieved by time-shifting the network schedule to accommodate programmes for audiences in Northern Ireland.

Part II: Contribution to public value

4. Contribution to the promotion of the BBC's public purposes

BBC Two NI should fulfil most of the requirements of the main BBC Two Service Licence. The following Conditions relate to programming broadcast only on BBC Two NI.

Conditions

BBC Two NI should:

- Broadcast at least 55 hours of non-news programming each year¹⁵

¹⁵ This output includes repeats and acquisitions

Annex III (ii)

BBC Two Scotland

Part I: Key characteristics of the service

1. Remit

BBC Two Scotland provides for the specialist needs and interests of audiences in Scotland, complementing the appeal of network programmes on BBC Two Scotland.

2. Scope of this Licence

See BBC Two main Licence. BBC Two Scotland should be available to viewers in Scotland.

3. Overview of aims and objectives

BBC Two Scotland should provide regular coverage of political developments in Scotland and the workings of Scotland's political institutions. It should showcase the diversity of sporting interests in Scotland and offer extended coverage of sporting events.

It should relate the stories of people and events that have shaped Scotland's history and reflect cultural life in Scotland through arts documentaries and coverage of cultural events. It should provide a space to reflect the unique passions of audiences in Scotland and enable themes of community interest to be addressed.

These aims and objectives are typically achieved by time-shifting the network schedule to accommodate programmes for Scottish audiences.

Part II: Contribution to public value

4. Contribution to the promotion of the BBC's public purposes

BBC Two Scotland should fulfil most of the requirements of the main BBC Two Service Licence. The following Conditions relate to programming broadcast only on BBC Two Scotland.

Conditions

BBC Two Scotland should:

- Broadcast at least 190 hours of non-news programming each year, including Gaelic language output ¹⁶

¹⁶ This output includes repeats and acquisitions

Annex III (iii)

BBC Two Wales

Part I Key characteristics of the service

1. Remit

BBC Two Wales should be a mixed-genre service for Wales, appealing to a broad audience with programmes of relevance and depth. There should be a range of knowledge-building programmes along with documentaries about the countryside and contemporary society, tailored to be of interest and relevance to audiences in Wales.

2. Scope of this Licence

See BBC Two main Licence. BBC Two Wales should be available to viewers in Wales.

3. Overview of aims and objectives

BBC Two Wales should deliver its remit with factual programming that broadens horizons. There should be peaktime coverage of history, the countryside, sport and culture along with documentaries reflecting contemporary life in Wales.

Live sports coverage and sports highlights, and programmes which explore and celebrate the Welsh landscape and history, should form the backbone of the BBC Two Wales service.

There should also be an opportunity within this service for innovation and development of Welsh talent particularly in comedy, and for creating strong content out of user-generated material.

These aims and objectives are typically achieved by time-shifting the network schedule to accommodate programmes for Welsh audiences.

Part II: Contribution to public value

4. Contribution to the promotion of the BBC's public purposes

BBC Two Wales should fulfil most of the requirements of the main BBC Two Service Licence. The following Conditions relate to programming broadcast only on BBC Two Wales.

Conditions

BBC Two Wales should:

- Broadcast at least 160 hours of non-news programming each year¹⁷

¹⁷ This output includes repeats and acquisitions