

# Showrunning in the UK

The following points are a summary of *Showrunning in the UK: A Best Practice Guide* which can be downloaded from [www.writersguild.org.uk/resources](http://www.writersguild.org.uk/resources)

**A showrunner** is both lead writer and executive producer, with responsibility for all artistic aspects of the TV show.

## **Producers and broadcasters should:**

- Use consistent terminology and clearly distinguish between showrunners, executive producers and lead writers.
- Ensure that any redraft fees paid to showrunners are not to the detriment of other writers.
- Hold showrunners to account for the treatment of writers on a show, including the selection and dismissal of writers.

## **Showrunners should:**

- Create a coherent vision for the show and communicate that vision to others.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that writing teams reflect the diversity of UK society.
- Provide episode writers with a detailed series breakdown AND a workable prototype in the form of a script.
- Provide episode writers with a clear brief and respond promptly to questions.
- Set workable targets and realistic goals.
- Provide notes on all outlines and drafts.

- Wherever possible, give writers the opportunity to rewrite their own work.
- Ensure appropriate rebrief fees are paid when changes are requested due to circumstances beyond a writer's control.
- Inform a writer promptly and courteously if their work is being rejected.
- Avoid using writers for the sole purpose of providing specific cultural or social insights, rather than as writers in their own right.
- Ensure writers are paid a daily fee for story conferences, on top of script fees.
- Be careful to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest by taking additional payments for redrafts – these should be included in the showrunner's fee.

**No writer or showrunner with responsibility for contracting or dismissing writers should be placed in a position where they are able to profit financially from firing another writer.**

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) is the trade union for screenwriters, playwrights, audio dramatists, authors, poets and videogames writers. Find out more and join online at [www.writersguild.org.uk](http://www.writersguild.org.uk)