

BBC Commissioning Supply Report 2020



Welcome to the BBC Commissioning Supply Report 2020



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£1.2

billion

Original TV content

28,000

hours

Original TV content

*Strictly Come Dancing,
BBC Studios, BBC One*

Cover image: Noughts + Crosses, Mammoth Screen, BBC One



This has been one of the toughest years for the UK television production sector in living memory. Having to halt productions in their tracks, see landmark events cancelled, freelance staff furloughed or laid off, was truly heart-breaking for everyone involved – and left us short of amazing content for audiences at a time when they wanted it most.

However, a world class creative sector came up with world class creative solutions – and the BBC is proud to

have been at the heart of that – working with producers to keep content, commissioning, and livelihoods going where we could.

Despite all the challenges thrown up by the pandemic, BBC Commissioning has continued to work with the most exciting talent, producers and partners to bring brilliant British stories to the screen.

Charlotte Moore
BBC Chief Content Officer



At the heart of British creativity

What we have achieved in 2020

Context

BBC TV is here to commission bold British content – from world class production teams across the UK. We actively promote breadth and diversity across the production sector, and across all four Nations, to encourage the richest range of ideas, stories and voices. Our goal is for the most brilliant producers and talent in the business to do their best work at the BBC.

This mission was massively challenged in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic and the national lockdown it triggered. Many of our productions were stopped in their tracks, global sporting and entertainment events were cancelled, travel across the UK was restricted, and the commissioning landscape was turned upside down.

As a commissioning team, we had to tear up our schedules and focus on what was possible rather than ideal. We had to design new content that met the Nation's needs. We listened to producers to understand what they needed from us, and put in place an unprecedented package to support the sector.

What we've achieved

In 2020 we maintained our position as the broadcaster with the strongest creative and economic footprint in the Nations and English regions. We worked with more producers than any other broadcaster – keeping more companies in business, especially the most vulnerable.

Despite the pandemic, we maintained the range and diversity of our supply base, continuing to work with a high volume of new companies and talent – and we increased our investment in training and skills to support the freelance community.

This report demonstrates we have:

- Offered critical support for the TV production sector through the Covid-19 crisis.
- Communicated with more producers than ever before – sharing opportunities in an open and transparent way.
- Delivered against our public purposes and the principles of our Commissioning Process Framework.
- Met the vast majority of our regulatory commitments – and increased levels of competition.

We are proud of what we achieved in 2020 against the odds – of what we delivered to audiences, how many producers we helped and the support we put in place for talent. But inevitably the Covid-19 crisis has had an impact on some of our key performance metrics in this exceptional year.

Despite dramatic disruption to the production pipeline we met the vast majority of our regulatory requirements in 2020/21. However, unavoidably we missed three targets in 2020 for the first time in BBC TV's history. We actively sought to minimise those – and have announced new plans to exceed these quotas in future years.

This report focuses on performance in 2020. For more background on how we work, please see the [BBC Commissioning Supply Report 2018](#) and the [BBC Commissioning website](#). The first three chapters focus on Network TV*.

54%

Network hours
Independent producers

343

Producers

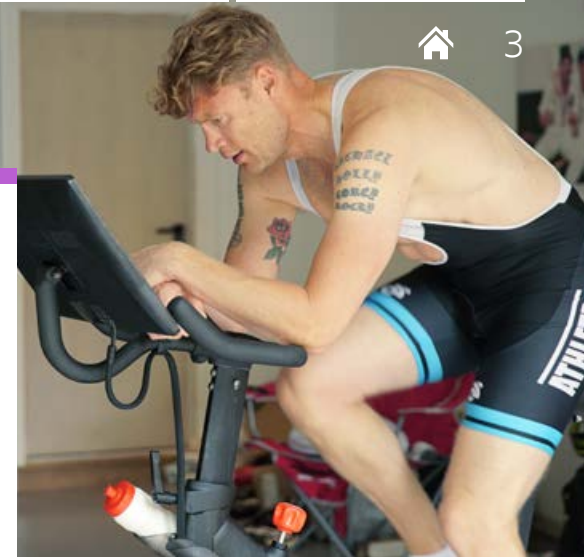
57%

Producers outside
London

66

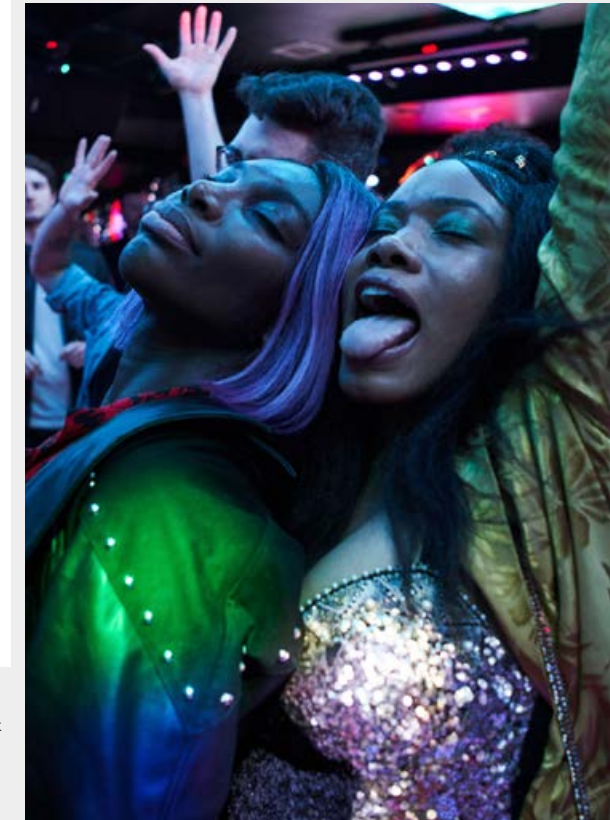
New producers

*Lose Weight and Get Fit with Tom Kerridge,
Bone Soup Productions, BBC Two*



*Freddie Flintoff: Living with Bulimia,
South Shore Productions, BBC One*

*I May Destroy You, Various Artists, BBC One
BAFTA Director, Writer, Actress and Mini Series Awards*



Chapter 1:

Supporting the sector through Covid-19

As the UK's biggest broadcaster the BBC has a critical role in supporting the long-term health of the creative sector. If we are to excite, educate and entertain audiences in the years to come, we need the most creative talent to be there to work with. The events of 2020 put that under threat – and we responded with an unprecedented package of support – to help keep creativity alive, focused and ready to thrive in the future.

Our gratitude and admiration goes out to everyone who worked on a BBC production in 2020 who kept programme making and creativity alive – and put safety centre stage. The BBC, and our audiences, are indebted to your resilience, innovation and imagination in such a challenging year.

96

Small companies supported

30%

Increased development spend

Hospital, Coronavirus Special, Label1 Television, BBC Two, Edinburgh TV Festival Creativity in Crisis Award



Staged, Staged Films, BBC One

Support for production companies

In April we announced a five-point plan to support independent producers during the disruption of Covid-19 – with a focus on smaller companies, diverse led indies and those in the Nations and English regions. We have delivered or exceeded on those commitments – with positive outcomes across the UK.

In the early days of the pandemic we worked closely in partnership with other Broadcasters and trade organisations to introduce health and safety protocols to get production back safely, and with the government to support the launch of *The Film and TV Production Restart Scheme*.

In addition we invested in cultural activity, wellbeing support and skills development to help creative freelance talent through the pandemic. They are the lifeblood of our industry – without them we can't deliver outstanding content for audiences.

Doubling our investment in small indies

In spring 2020 we announced a £1m fund to support the growth of small independent production companies with turnovers below £10m.

After lockdown we doubled that support – and prioritised the smallest, those out of London and those with diverse leadership. See page 13.

96

Companies supported

£2m

Small Indie Fund

A company-centric approach

Once the scale of the disruption became clear we reached out to producers – and put their considerations at the heart of our response.

Our offer included:

- Flexible delivery, scope adjustments and changes to cash flow to help companies adapt.
- Fast-tracked topical commissions, compilations and iPlayer acquisitions to keep income streams active.
- Working in partnership to get shows safely back into production as lockdown eased.
- Supporting additional Covid-19 safety costs and *Government Restart Scheme* premiums where appropriate.

“It felt like a direct conversation on equal terms – shared experience – we’re in this together mentality.”

BBC Covid-19 Survey 2020

130+

BBC productions applied to government Film and TV Production Restart Scheme



Case study: Small Indie Fund

Doubling the value of this new fund meant we could support twice as many companies through Covid-19. In total in 2020/21 we supported nearly 100 companies across all four Nations.

Although the original objective had been to support company growth – the focus switched to survival when Covid hit.

- 48 companies received a strategic support package tailored to their needs. This was used to strengthen company development including funding key additional roles or pilots.
- 48 companies received targeted development funds with clear objectives. These were smaller investments to keep companies creatively focused in areas where there was clear commissioning need.

All companies were given a commissioning mentor. Those with strategic support also had access to commissioning masterclasses and free NFTS training places.

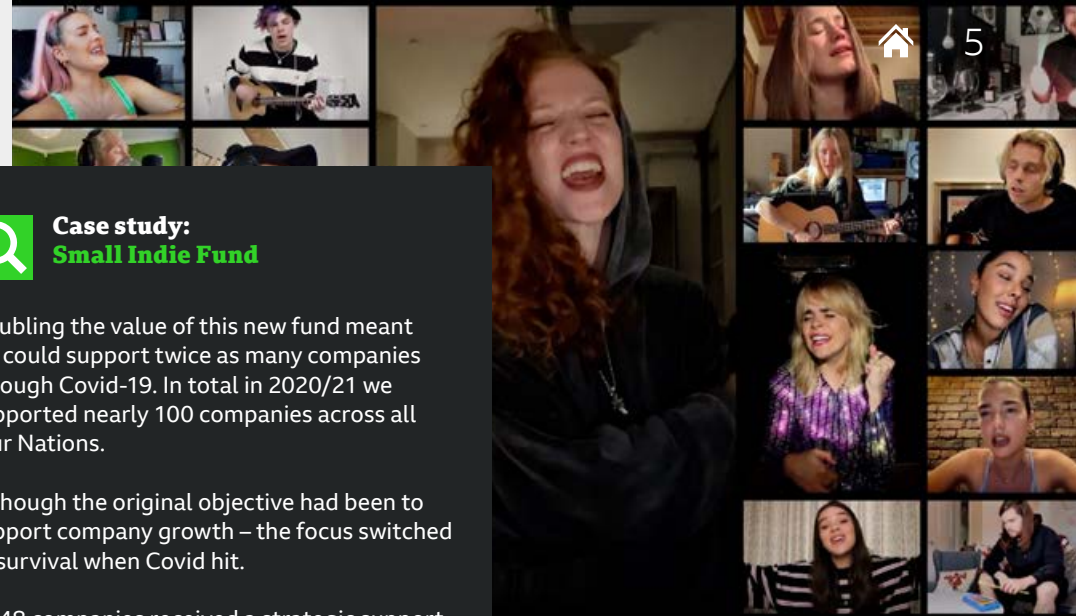
By April 2021, more than 20 programmes had been commissioned from companies on the fund, with many more ideas still in active development.

2/3rd

Companies based in Nations and English regions

1/4

Companies diverse led



The Big Night In, BBC Studios, BBC One

*Normal People, Element Films, BBC Three
BAFTA Leading Actor Award*



Support for creativity

Supercharging development

With many productions closed down, we significantly increased our development spend to keep creativity focused on future opportunities and development teams active.

Across all Network TV genres development spend increased by a third.

In Factual, this included guaranteed commissions for BBC Two – one per Nation, co-commissioned with local BBC teams. *See page 13.*

30%

Increase in development spend (April – Sept 2020)

4

Nations co-commissions on BBC Two

Expanded BBC Three partnerships

Building on the success of BBC Three's Northern Ireland partnership, the channel expanded the approach to all four Nations, including a second round in Northern Ireland – guaranteeing commissions for Nations and English regions producers – with flexibility on delivery.

Partnerships in all four Nations exceeded expectations and led to more ideas and companies being commissioned, providing much-needed security for companies outside London. *See page 13.*

30+

Companies Paid development

10

Nations and English regions commissions



Case study: Culture in Quarantine

In April 2020 BBC Arts announced a co-commissioning programme with Arts Council England to support the cultural sector and enable them to create content for a range of platforms. The 25 commissions were organised via The Space in partnership with arts producers.

In November 2020 BBC Arts launched phase two – specifically for disabled artists. The 10 commissions are co-funded by Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council NI and Arts Council Wales.

This initiative was critical in keeping arts producers in business, as well as making cultural activity available for audiences whilst theatres and venues were closed.

35

Commissions

20

Companies commissioned



Life Drawing Live!, Avanti Media, BBC Four



The Great British Sewing Bee, Love Productions, BBC One



Lockdown Learning, Bitesize Daily Primary, BBC In-house

Support for talent

Investing in skills and wellbeing

In 2020 the BBC invested in The Film and TV Charity to support the freelance community – many of whom lost their livelihoods as productions shut down. Funding was split between an emergency Covid-19 relief fund and a two-year mental health action plan to address longer-term impacts.

The BBC also signed up to *The Coalition for Change* – created in response to the pandemic – to devise a code of conduct for working with freelancers. This is looking at recruitment, training, culture and behaviours to ensure freelancers get a fair, inclusive and respectful experience in the future.

We also significantly increased our commitment to the NFTS and Screenskills in 2020 – to turbo-charge skills development post the pandemic.

£700^k

BBC funding for The Film and TV Charity (BBC Studios/BBC Content)

£400^k

BBC funding for Screenskills

The Screenskills investment helped to fund:

580⁺

Free online training sessions

9,500⁺

Beneficiaries of free online training



Case study: The Film and TV Charity Partnership

In March 2020 BBC TV and BBC Studios joined with other partners to support The Film and TV Charity's two-year programme to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people working in the TV, film and cinema sector – with additional funding going towards the *Emergency Relief Fund* set up in response to Covid-19.

The charity received more than 6,000 calls to its Film and TV Support Line – and delivered 350 legal advice or counselling sessions between March and October. Three thousand individuals received emergency financial support.

The Whole Picture Programme was paused due to the pandemic, but delivery was restarted in October in partnership with the mental health charity Mind.

£5^{m+}

Financial support distributed

3,000

Individuals benefited from economic support

9,000

Individuals accessed services provided

Building on what we've learnt

In autumn 2020 we asked producers about their experiences of working with the BBC during Covid-19 to understand what we can learn for the future.

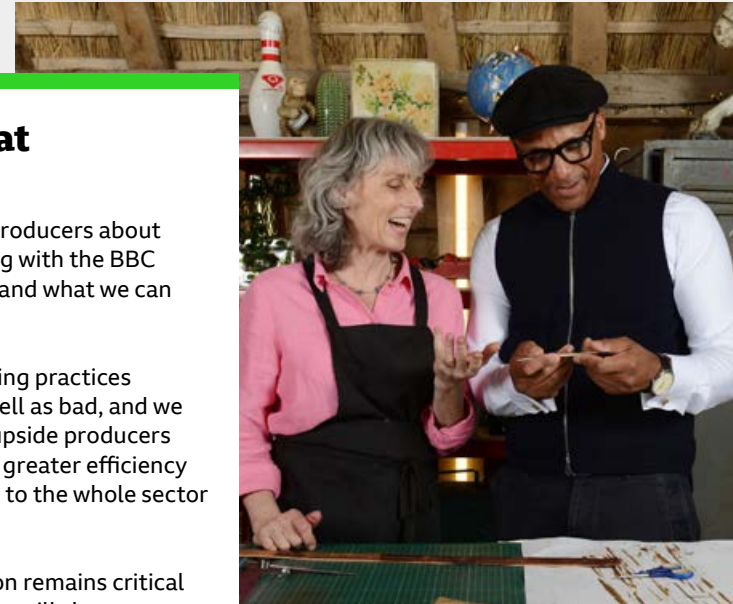
The pandemic turned working practices upside down, for good as well as bad, and we are keen to hold on to the upside producers experienced: easier access, greater efficiency and swifter communication to the whole sector at once.

Face-to-face communication remains critical in a creative industry – so we will shape a blended approach in the future.

We have also built other feedback into our ways of working in our new commissioning structure.

“My life has been transformed by not having to hop on a train all the time for meetings. We have completed two BBC productions in lockdown, without ever seeing anyone face to face. I still had as much contact with the Com Ed as I needed.”

(BBC Covid-19 Ways of Working Survey 2020)



The Repair Shop, Ricochet, BBC One

Marcus Rashford: Feeding Britain's Children, BBC Sport, BBC One



Chapter 2:

Inspiring Great British creativity

25

Briefings

4,500⁺

Attendees



Once Upon a Time in Iraq, KEO Films, BBC Two, Rose D'Or Golden Rose Award

Attracting brilliant ideas is critical to the quality and impact of our programmes. In 2020 we briefed more producers across the UK than ever before, updating them on our commissioning priorities and sharing information and resources to support their development. Our commissioning process is open, fair and transparent – we work with more new suppliers than any other UK public service broadcaster.

Communications

Briefings

In 2020 we increased the volume of editorial briefings for the sector, with the inevitable transfer to online driving record attendance. Some focused on specific targeted opportunities – to deliver tangible outcomes for the sector in a challenging year.

Nearly half of our activity had a focus on Nations and English regions producers – although all online briefings were available across the UK, which increased access overall.

In 2020 we introduced a new event for producers who didn't have an established relationship with the BBC – to discover new talent, ideas and build relationships.

25

Briefings:
22 online,
3 face to face
2019: 22 ▲

4,500⁺

Attendees

718,000⁺

Page loads
2019: 700,000 ▲

Carl Callam – Documentaries

10

Specific to Nation/
English region
2019: 8 cities

Commissioning website

We relaunched the Commissioning website in October 2020, giving it a stronger focus on editorial updates, overall BBC Content strategy and more detail on the support we offer producers and talent.

All the genre development briefs were updated for the relaunch and at key points throughout the year. We created a separate area for production, delivery and business information.

No new video briefs were recorded due to Covid-19 restrictions. Overall our traffic increased in 2020.

News updates

We kept our suppliers informed of developments, opportunities and available resources in a fast-moving year.

13

News updates – emails and newsletters
2019: 8 ▲



Piers Wenger - Drama



Case study: New Indie Day

We held our first New Indie Day in November for companies looking to build a relationship with BBC Commissioning.

Sessions included:

- an introduction to how BBC Commissioning works.
- an editorial briefing from Factual commissioning.
- an outline of what has impact on iPlayer.
- a guide to working with business teams.

All companies had one-to-ones to discuss their ideas and meet commissioners.

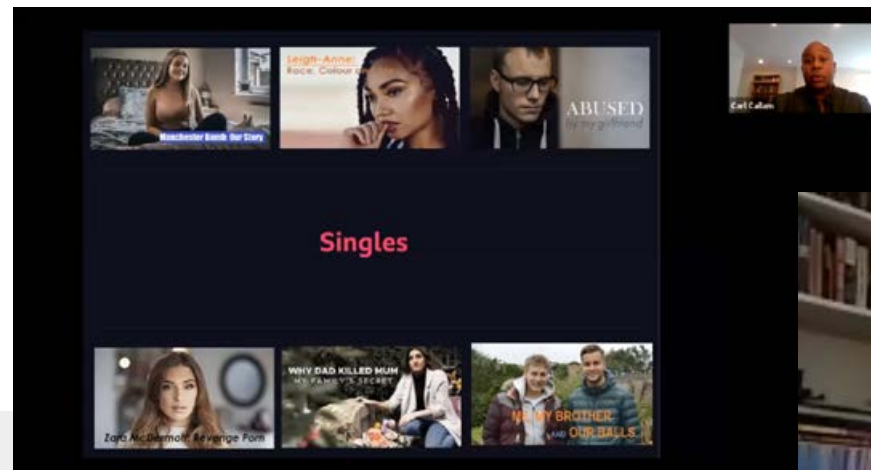
Feedback on the event was positive – and will inform how we shape similar events in the future.

13

Indies attended

4

Commissioner
1 to 1 sessions



Fiona Campbell – BBC Three

Sharing information and resources

Audience information

We relaunched our Audiences site in May, giving producers access to wider insights to inspire creative ideas. As well as accessing the latest research articles, producers now benefit from improved navigation, a bespoke homepage and enhanced programme pages for their own shows.

For technical reasons, registered companies needed to apply for a new account. However, with lockdown not all companies took up the invite, so we are re-promoting the site.

Key presentations are also available on BBC Pitch for those bidding for new business.

100⁺

Indie audience accounts 2019: 130+ ▼

Archive

The Archive Search website has broadened the range of BBC archive available to contracted producers to support their research within one easy to use search engine.

206

Indie archive accounts 2019: 200 ▲

Audience insights

Audience teams and commissioners held three dedicated masterclasses to inspire programme ideas based on our data analysis.

We also shared additional audience insight in eight further genre or channel briefing sessions.

This year's audience masterclasses included:

- Changing viewing habits during lockdown.
- Creative insights for Black, Asian and minority ethnic audiences.
- On-screen representation of environmental issues.

11

Audience insight briefings
2019: 5 ▲

800⁺

Producers attended
2019: 437 ▲

New resources

We added or updated the following information to our commissioning website:

- Sustainable production guidance for Albert.
- Covid-19 production guidance.
- Definitions and guidance around the BBC's Diversity commitments.
- New process for completing the Ofcom regional compliance forms.
- New reporting requirements for non-linear.
- User guide for Archive Search.

6

New website resources
2019: 4 ▲



Case study: Audience Diversity Masterclass – December 2020

More than 400 producers joined Patrick Holland, Controller of BBC Two, Miranda Wayland, Head of Creative Diversity, and Kalpna Patel Knight, Commissioning Editor Entertainment, to understand more about our new 20% off-screen diversity requirement.

Sam Ripman from BBC Audiences shared insights with producers to illustrate what Black, Asian and minority ethnic audiences are looking for in our programmes and how this is informing our thinking in commissioning.

An open Q&A session addressed a range of practical and editorial queries, and the Creative Diversity team were on hand to give guidance and share links to resources.

Producer feedback on the session was positive.

“a very important and impressive presentation”

“very useful and informative”

430

Producers attended

Miranda Wayland and Patrick Holland chair masterclass



Crip Tales, BBC Studios, BBC Four
Prix Italia TV Performing Arts Award



Supporting creativity across the UK

Supporting the strength of ideas, talent and companies in the Nations and English regions is a BBC priority to meet our ambition of increasing production *Across the UK*.

In 2020 we held 10 dedicated briefings for Nations and English regions producers – and made available nine guaranteed commissions – to maintain the creative health of the sector outside London.

We have Network commissioning editors to support the development of ideas and companies in each Nation and for the English regions. 16* of our Network commissioners were based outside London in 2020, with two more appointed in 2021.



Scotland

Commissioner support

Drama: Gaynor Holmes

Comedy: Gregor Sharp

Factual: Tom Coveney and Emma Cahusac

Daytime: Muslim Alim and Neil McCallum

Entertainment: Neil McCallum

Children's: Julia Bond



The Nest, Studio Lambert, BBC One

3

Briefings
2019: 4 ▼

33

Companies
supported
2019: 20+ ▲



Wales

Commissioner support

Drama: Ben Irving

Comedy: Gregor Sharp

Factual: Beejal Patel

Daytime: Lindsay Bradbury



Veganville, Plimsoll Productions, BBC Three

2

Briefings
2019: 4 ▼

20

Companies
supported
2019: 10+ ▲



Northern Ireland

Commissioner support

Drama: Tommy Bulfin

Comedy: Gregor Sharp

Factual: Clare Mottershead

Daytime: Muslim Alim

Children's: Julia Bond



Mountain Vets, Rare TV, BBC Two

2

Briefings
2019: 4 ▼

12

Companies
supported
2019: 8 ▲



England

Commissioner support

Drama: Mona Qureshi

Comedy: Gregor Sharp

Factual: Emily Smith, North and Midlands

Daytime: Alex McLeod



Angels of the North, TwentySix03 Entertainment, BBC Three

3

Briefings
2019: 8 ▼

52

Companies
supported
2019: 40+ ▲

In 2020 all online briefings were available pan-UK

* Commissioners based outside London include all Network TV genres including Drama, Comedy, Entertainment, Factual, Daytime, Children's and Sport. Briefings and commissioner support includes Drama, Comedy, Entertainment, Factual, Daytime and Children's. Briefings includes Drama, Comedy, Entertainment, Factual and Daytime. Commissioner support includes Drama, Comedy, Entertainment, Factual, Daytime and Children's. We have not included Commissioners' visits in 2020 as they were not in line with government guidance for much of the year.

Chapter 3:

Backing brilliant ideas, talent and companies

This year, more than ever, the BBC has actively supported the long-term health of the UK creative sector. We have continued to drive change where the market needs it, to ensure we can continue to reflect, educate and entertain all audiences. Our current priorities are to increase diverse representation off-screen, to strengthen production in the Nations and English regions, to ensure we tell stories from all communities across the UK, and to promote a greener Britain. Some of this we do ourselves and some we do with partners in the industry.

*A Suitable Boy,
Lookout Point,
BBC One*



96

Small indies supported

30⁺

Talent schemes

100%

Development spend contestable



*The Other One,
Tiger Aspect, BBC One*

What we do

In 2020 we strengthened our support for the sector to ensure talent, creativity and companies survived lockdown, and were ready to thrive beyond. We increased our investment in ideas, backed more small businesses and continued to develop and nurture the next generation of talent *Across the UK*. Diversity of voice, experience, culture and place remain at the heart of everything we do.

Ideas development

All genres have dedicated development funds to work with producers to convert ideas from concept to fully formed commissionable programmes for our channels and iPlayer.

238

Companies funded development
2019: 260 ▼

7%

BBC Studios
2019: 10% ▼

93%

Indies
2019: 90% ▲

Business development

We invest in companies to stimulate growth and strengthen their creative pipeline where they play a key role in delivering our creative and strategic goals. Our current priorities are to support promising producers in the Nations and English regions, companies with diverse leadership or in genres where we have limited supply.

Small Indie Fund

In January 2020 we launched our Small Indie Fund: ringfencing £1m a year to back talented small independent production companies with turnovers of less than £10m across Drama, Entertainment, Comedy, Factual and Daytime.

25%

Diverse led
2019: 25% >

2/3rds

Nations and Regions
2019: 2/3rds >

96

Companies supported*



Case study: Small Indie Fund: Alleycats

We supported Derry-based Indie Alleycats through the Small Indie Fund, with strategic investment to broaden their portfolio and mentoring from Factual commissioning. The company wanted to consolidate and grow their development team to help win commissions from BBC Three.

After a successful pitch in the BBC/Northern Ireland Screen Partnership, *The Fast and the Farmer(ish)* was commissioned as a pilot and then went on to series.

A second idea, The Big Proud Party Agency, was considered so strong it was commissioned straight to series. Their BBC Two series *Raiders of the Lost Past* was also recommissioned.

“The Small Indie Fund has been a gamechanger for us; it has enabled us to get our heads up out of the cycle of production and invest properly in development, and the results have been fantastic.”

Ed Stobart, Alleycats



Case study: BBC Two Nations Scheme

BBC Two partnered with each of the BBC Nations to co-commission four new series that reflect the lives of communities across the UK.

Commissioning teams joined together to brief producers in each Nation – targeting ideas of scale with the potential to become returning series. Each Nation had a guaranteed commission to support their local sector – with an initial eight-part run.

The initiative received a huge response – with more than 300 pitches received from over 200 companies. After a selection exercise, companies with the strongest ideas were shortlisted for paid development to strengthen their proposals further.

Additionally, in Northern Ireland two indies pitched ideas that were outside the brief but still of interest to the channel and received funded development outside of the scheme.

300⁺

Ideas pitched

230⁺

Companies

17

Commissions received
paid development

4

Guaranteed
commissions

The Fast and the Farmer(ish), Alleycats,
Winner of BBC/NI Screen partnership first round

* Five companies have delayed funding until next year to use against specific business priorities.



What we do *continued*

Diversity, portrayal and representation

£2m

Diversity Fund

166

Programmes supported through the fund

Representing all audiences in the UK is a priority for us. We are increasingly working in partnership with BBC Nations commissioning teams to drive authentic portrayal and have a dedicated Creative Diversity team to provide guidance and support to independent production companies.

In 2020 we announced two new diversity commitments to support progress across the industry, in addition to our existing fund.

- A commitment for producers to recruit 20% of their production teams from under-represented backgrounds.
- A commitment for BBC TV to spend a minimum of £100m on diverse content.

More detail about these commitments can be found on our [Commissioning Website](#).

The BBC's three-year investment in the Portrayal Fund came to an end in 2019/20 – and portrayal commitments have now been built into commissioning objectives.

The nine guaranteed Factual commissions on BBC Two and BBC Three for Nations and English regions producers all had local portrayal at the heart of the brief.

Diversity Fund

In 2020 Diamond data showed we were the best broadcaster for on-screen representation – but still had work to do off-screen. So the current focus of our Diversity Fund is to support producers to develop a stronger range



8 Trainees

I May Destroy You: Various Artists Ltd



17 Trainees

Pru: Fully Focused

and higher volume of off-screen talent from our three key under-represented groups: those from black, Asian or ethnic minority backgrounds, those with a lived experience of a disability, and those from low income backgrounds.



5 Disabled writers

Ralph and Katie: ITV Studios and Keshet Productions in association with Tiger Aspect



14 Placements

Small Axe: Turbine Studios Limited (Trainees + stepping up roles)



Case study:

Supporting diversity in the Nations and English regions

Increasingly we are combining activity to support talent development in the Nations and English regions *and* drive diversity in those sectors. In 2020 this was a key focus and three projects illustrate how we achieved this:

Drama are partnering with Screen Scotland and Silverprint to run a diverse talent development scheme across series six and seven of **Shetland** focusing on entry level, script editing, and mid-level roles. They supported six placements on series six – with some roles expected to step up across the two series.

Documentaries have a long-standing relationship with Dragonfly North on **Ambulance** – which has led to two rounds of a co-funded trainee editor scheme in the North West, and in addition on series seven we co-funded two trainee series producers to nurture the next generation of senior talent in the North West. Three of these six roles were from a black, Asian or minority ethnic background.

Entertainment supported Twenty Six 03 to recruit three production roles from a working class background for series three of **Angels of the North** to improve the socio-economic make-up of their crew and strengthen talent development in the Newcastle and Darlington areas.

What we do *continued*

Talent development

Talent is the lifeblood of creativity and excellence – we actively nurture and support new faces and voices. We invest in or manage multiple schemes from entry level to showrunner across all genres – and support emerging talent to continue their progress across the BBC.

Although some of this activity was disrupted in 2020 with productions closing down or reduced-team working, most went ahead as planned or after a delay.

30+

Bursaries, talent schemes and targeted initiatives
2019: 30 >

1/3rd

BAME or disabled
2019: 1/3 >

Image captions

Writers:
Anthony, LA Productions, BBC One

Comedy:
Alma's Not Normal, Expectation Entertainment,
New on Two pilot
BAFTA Best Comedy Writer

New talent:
Ambulance, Dragonfly, BBC One

New Documentary Directors:
Sudden Death: My Sister's Silent Killer
Storyvault Films, BBC Three



Writers

We support writers with a number of targeted initiatives through the BBC Writersroom and BBC Comedy including the Scottish Drama Writers' Programme, the Writers' Access Group, Interconnected, and the 'Voices' groups, working with talent in six locations.

22

Schemes and bursaries

250+

Writers supported



Comedy

We set up the Galton and Simpson Bursary, alongside our two existing talent bursaries. We launched *Laugh Lessons* with BBC Three to discover upcoming talent from across the UK. As part of our Comedy Association plans we announced The New Comedy Awards.

3

Bursaries
2019: 2 ▲

40+

Writers developed
2019: 16 ▲



New talent

This year we supported new talent to develop across a range of genres and roles – including in Drama, Comedy and BBC Film. Emerging Factual talent were identified through the BBC Three Pitch at the Sheffield DocFest.

17

Schemes
2019: 10 schemes ▲



New Documentary Directors

Offering new directors their first break into longform television Documentary. Each director wins a 60 minute BBC Three commission, backed up by a production company, a mentor and masterclasses from experienced industry talent.

6

New directors placed



Case study: BBC Elevate

BBC Elevate supports mid-level disabled talent to progress by removing some of the barriers they typically face. The scheme aims to support up to 40 freelancers over two years via 4-12-month placements on BBC productions. The BBC funds a substantial part of their salary and oversees any reasonable adjustments to ensure an inclusive experience. We also arrange tailored training, coaching and/or mentoring for the participants, and provide support to the host production company, including disability confidence training.

At launch BBC Elevate received over 300 applications. Over 50 were invited to screening conversations, and 36 went through to a pool of candidates we aim to find placements for. The scheme was put on hold for six months due to the pandemic.

In September 2020, we adapted to conditions with BBC Elevate Lite: a six month pilot version of the project, aiming to find placements on 'Covid-19-safe' productions with candidates who can confidently be placed in roles working-from-home, or who don't need face-to-face training or support. Ten candidates have been placed to date.

10

Production partners

36

Disabled talent

What we do with others

The BBC is proud to partner with other specialists in the sector to further support ideas, talent, skills and businesses across the UK. We do so where our ambitions and values align, and where there is clear strategic benefit, outcomes and value for money.

Talent development

We work with multiple partners across the UK to support skills and development across the sector – with a focus on broadening the diversity of voices shaping our content, expand representation on our production teams and strengthen skills in the Nations and English regions.

Penguins: Meet the Family, BBC Studios, BBC One



BFI and Creative England

To develop and support new UK film talent through projects such as iFeatures.

12

Debut film-makers

3

Films taken into production

Screenskills

To support production training initiatives across the UK targeting identified skills gaps. The BBC is a founding investor of the new Unscripted fund.

57%

Beneficiaries based outside London

24%

BAME Series Producer programme

NFTS BBC sponsored scholars 2020/21



TRC

To strengthen skills and business development in the Nations and English regions.

16

Development producers
Supersizer scheme

14

Nations and Regions
TV Executives
Navigating the New
Normal programme

S4C, Channel 4 and BBC Wales

Factual Fast Track Wales – to strengthen the pipeline of Factual producers. Bespoke package of training, development placements and mentoring.

6

Producers



Case study: NFTS

The BBC announced a major new partnership with NFTS in October 2020 to support skills development across the UK. BBC public service and BBC Studios sponsor a total of 10 courses and will fund 20 scholarships for diverse students.

In addition, NFTS will provide 100 free short course places, of which 60 will be reserved for the BBC's Small Indie Fund companies. Many will be delivered at NFTS hubs in Glasgow, Cardiff and Leeds.

The BBC sponsored courses are:

- Assistant Directing and Floor Managing Diploma
- Production Management for Film and TV Diploma
- Script Development Diploma (Drama)
- Writing and Producing Comedy Diploma
- Directing Fiction MA
- Producing MA (Drama)
- Directing and Producing Science and Natural History MA
- Directing Documentary MA
- Screenwriting MA (Drama)
- Directing and Producing Television Entertainment MA

60

Free training places for small indies

20

Diverse scholars

What we do with others *continued*

Strategic partnerships

In 2020 we worked closely with our strategic partners to adapt and respond to the Covid-19 disruption in the industry. All screen agencies put their own local support packages in place – and we worked with them to shape targeted opportunities to keep creativity focused and commissions coming through.

Bricking It, Button Down, commissioned via BBC Three Northern Voices



Screen Scotland

In 2020 Screen Scotland worked with BBC Writersroom to fund eight writers to work with eight Scottish producers to strengthen the portrayal pipeline from the Nation. They partnered with BBC Scotland, BBC Three and BBC Two on guaranteed Factual commissions, BBC Arts on Scenes for Survival and BBC Drama on a diverse talent scheme on Shetland.

10

Companies in paid development
BBC Two and Three

Creative Wales

BBC and Creative Wales developed their first MOU in 2020, partnering with BBC Three and BBC Wales on a guaranteed commission for an ob doc/structured reality series.

5

Companies in paid development, BBC Three

Indielab

Business accelerator programme to help small indies supercharge their growth. This year Indielab delivered a successful Masterclass series online with additional support through legal and financial helpdesks and mentoring.

15

Producers

50⁺

Industry leaders

Northern Ireland Screen

In 2020 BBC Three, BBC NI and NI Screen extended their partnership to increase youth content made in the Nation, commissioning a Fact Ent series from Round 1 and Round 2. NI Screen also invested in the BBC Two returning series opportunity.

21

Companies in paid development
BBC Two and Three

Pact

BBC co-funds a Diversity Executive to support independent producers deliver diversity goals. Workshops included Inclusive Leadership and Casting, Hiring for Disability and Supporting Mental Health.

27

Workshops

2,000

Attendees

Albert

In 2020 we introduced changes to the TV commissioning process to encourage sustainable production practices and prompt producers to consider sustainable themes and behaviours in content.

309

Programmes Albert certified
2019: 156 ▲



Case study: BBC Three Partnerships

In 2020 BBC Three extended its creative partnerships across the UK, in each case working with the commissioning team in each Nation. The Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales partnerships were co-funded by relevant screen agencies as they guaranteed BBC commissions for their sector.

The partnerships included joint briefing sessions from Nations and Network commissioners – audience insight presentations bespoke to the relevant content brief – and guides to what makes a successful BBC Three pitch.

All shortlisted ideas in paid development had an identified commissioning contact through the process and all ideas had detailed feedback sessions, regardless of outcome.

All partnerships announced to date have exceeded expectations – resulting in more than the original single commission.

In the North of England, we commissioned three companies rather than one, and two series as well as the intended single. All three companies were new to Network commissioning.

30⁺

Indies in paid development

10

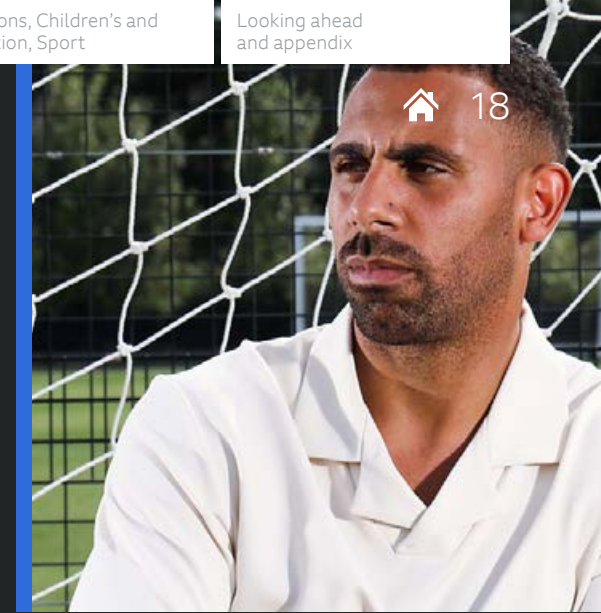
Commissions

Chapter 4:

Delivering our ambitions and commitments

Despite the disruptions of Covid-19 our creative and economic footprint remains broader and deeper than any other UK broadcaster. We work with more producers, in more locations, and constantly refresh our supply base. Our support for the independent production sector this year means they have won an increased volume of business – and we have maintained the same volume of companies in the Nations and English regions.

The production lockdown meant many of our planned productions in 2020 did not go ahead or were delayed – this has inevitably impacted on a small number of regulatory targets, particularly those reliant on scripted productions.



Anton Ferdinand: *Football, Racism & Me*, *Wonder Television*, BBC One RTS Documentary Award Winner

57%

Suppliers outside London

66

New producers

32

New Nations and English regions producers



This Country,
BBC Studios, BBC Three
BAFTA Best Male Comedy Performance Award

Volume and location of suppliers

Volume

In 2020, despite the production slowdown we worked with the second highest number of producers on record, and more than double that of other Broadcasters. Half of the new producers we worked with came from the Nations and English regions.

343

Producers
2019: 354 ▼

66

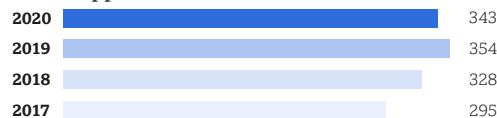
New producers
2019: 77 ▼

32

New Nations and English regions producers
2019: 40 ▼

Broadcaster comparison

BBC: suppliers



Channel 4: suppliers



ITV: suppliers

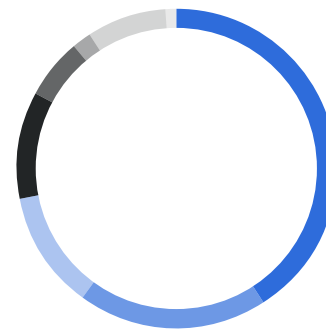


Location

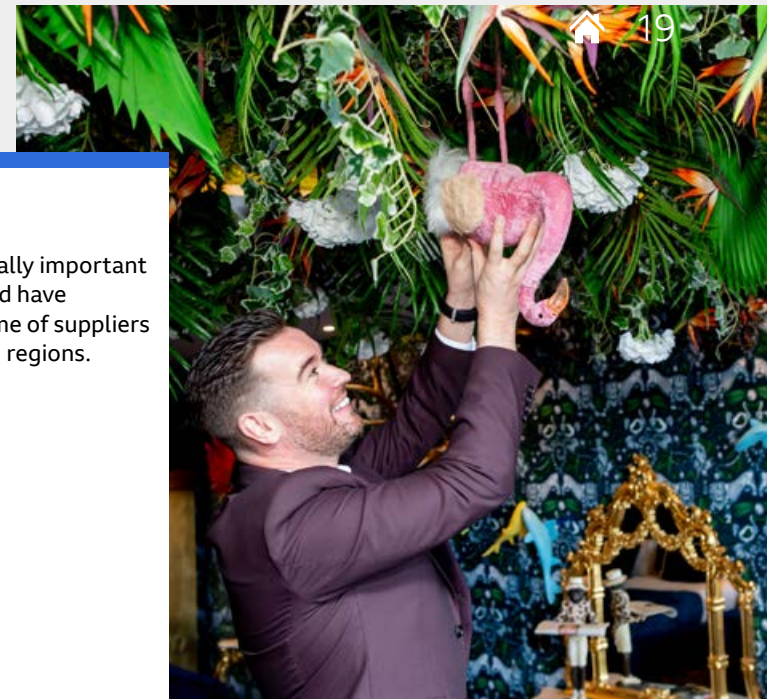
Our actions to support strategically important smaller companies through Covid have enabled us to maintain the volume of suppliers based in the Nations and English regions.

57%

Producers out of London
2019: 57% >



Breakdown of suppliers by substantive base



The Grand Party Hotel, Spun Gold TV, BBC One



Life, Drama Republic, BBC One



The Rap Game UK, Naked Television, BBC Three

Supplier mix and response rates

Mix of suppliers

In 2020/21 nearly six out of ten of our programme hours were made by independent producers.

The volume of business won by non-qualifying independent producers continued to grow (up 1 percentage point to 20%).

However, the bigger increase was in the volume of qualifying independent producers (up 3 percentage points to 39%).

BBC Studios' level of business fell by 1 percentage point and public service was down 4 percentage points, driven in part by the lower volume of sporting events.

59%

Network hours independent producers
2019: 54% ▲

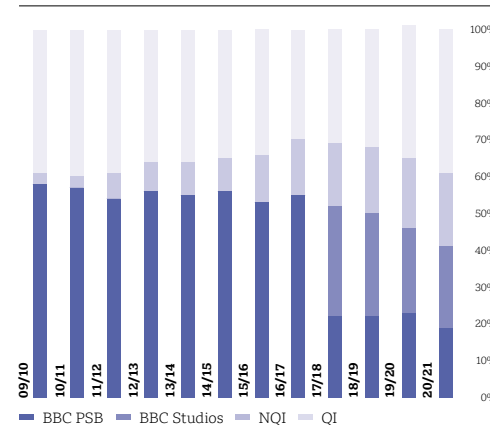
41%

Network hours BBC producers
2019: 46% ▼

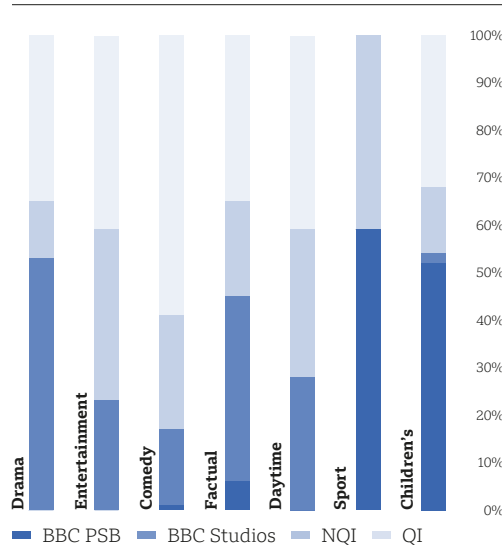
King Gary, Shiny Button Productions, BBC One



Levels of Business trend



Business by genre



Speed of response

The uncertainty on schedules and funding caused by the pandemic led to some commissioning decisions taking longer in 2020.

This meant our speed of decision making on active ideas* was down for both independent producers and BBC Studios. The volume of ideas submitted by both groups was significantly lower than previous years.

The remaining ideas were subject to further development or funding dependencies. We aim to improve our speed of response once commissioning patterns return to normal.

75%

Final decision in 20 weeks on active ideas
Independent producers and BBC Studios

*In My Skin, Expectation Entertainment, BBC Three
RTS Best Drama Series Award*

Stand Up For Live Comedy, Phil McIntyre TV, BBC Three



* Active ideas are ideas where a decision is possible. Ideas are classed as inactive when they are stalled waiting for confirmation of component elements, e.g. access or talent availability.

Supply quotas

In 2020, despite Covid-19 disruption, we met or exceeded the majority of our supply quotas – including all our Nations and regions hours targets. However, the unprecedented and rapid reduction in programme spend led to particular challenges in some individual Nations and English regions – leading us to miss three spend quotas for the first time.

We moved swiftly to put a number of mitigations in place to reduce the impact: using repeats and acquisitions to maintain representation, putting a sector support package in place to drive new business and commissioning replacement shows where they could be made safely.

We have evidenced to Ofcom how and why this happened in all three cases – and the actions we put in place to reduce the shortfall.

We currently expect to be back on track in 2021, although this remains subject to ongoing Covid-19 regulations.

34%

Productions made by qualifying independent companies
Quota 25%

48%

Network spend qualified as Out of London
Quota 50%

60%

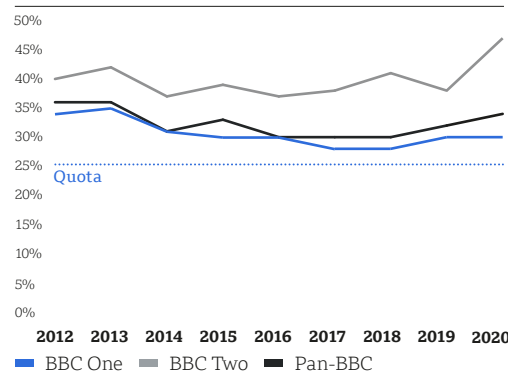
Network hours qualified as Out of London
Quota 50%

Independent production quota

In 2020 we exceeded the independent production quota by 8.7%.

- 30% of programme hours on BBC One were made by qualifying producers (exceeded quota by 5%).
- 47% of programme hours on BBC Two were made by qualifying producers (exceeded quota by 22%).

Independent production quota



Casualty, BBC Studios, BBC One
BAFTA and RTS Continuing Drama Awards

Out of London production quota

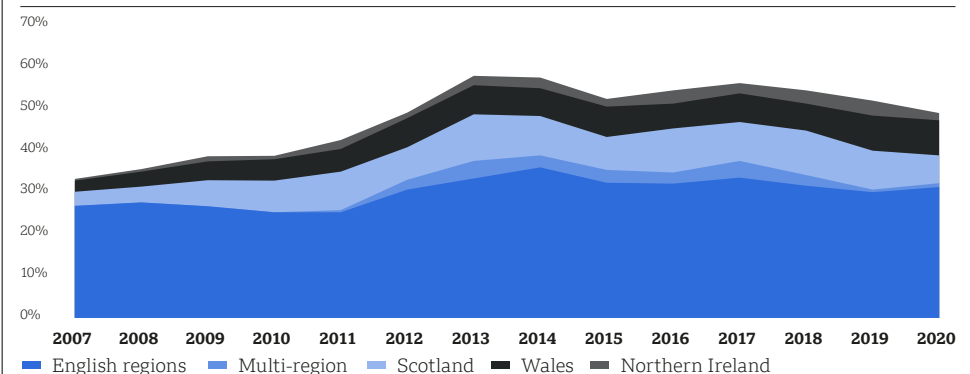
In 2020 the Covid impact on programme spend in key genres led us to miss three out of London production quotas.

Although spend reduced across all genres and all four Nations – the most significant decreases were in Drama, Comedy, Sport and Children's.

Nations with a high mix of disrupted productions in these genres were therefore disproportionately hit, namely: Northern Ireland, Scotland and the English regions.

Although we achieved our English regions quota by the end of the year, we missed our Northern Ireland, Scotland and therefore overall spend quotas outside London.

Yearly spend trend by Nations/English regions



Hours by Nation	Quota	2020
Scotland	8%	15.3%
Wales	4%	4.6%
Northern Ireland	2%	2.2%
English regions	30%	37.0%
Multi-region		0.1%
Total OOL Hours	50%	60.1%

Spend by Nation	Quota	2020
Scotland	8%	6.5%
Wales	5%	8.2%
Northern Ireland	3%	1.7%
English regions	30%	30.6%
Multi-region		0.9%
Total OOL Spend	50%	47.9%

Competition and complaints



Us, Drama Republic, BBC One

Levels of competition

Competition of ideas is baked into our business model. All ideas are treated on merit with decisions made on consistent criteria* and creative judgement.

We have continued to make progress towards our 2027 target – putting more of our content out to competition – although plans for Competitive Tenders were put on hold during the pandemic to reduce strain on both production and commissioning teams.

64%

Hours contested in 2020
2019: 62% ▲

Target:

100%

Hours to be contested by 2027

We expect Competitive Tendering activity to restart once Covid impacts on the production sector have reduced. We remain confident of achieving our target by 2027.

Complaints

We received one formal complaint from an independent production company in 2020. The indie complained of poor practice in the handling of their commission. A Stage One investigation found no breach of the BBC's published commitments.

Fair access

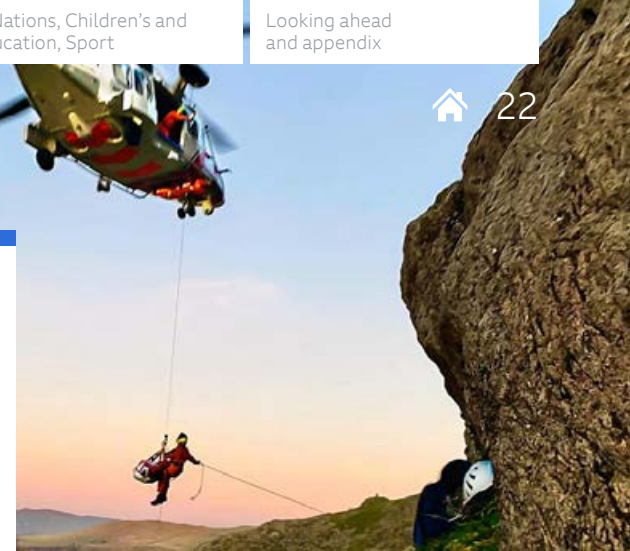
More than 200 new companies registered on BBC Pitch in 2020 – bringing fresh ideas and perspectives. Where producers didn't meet our criteria – but have strong talent or ideas – they can still access BBC Pitch on the invitation of a commissioner.

233

New companies registered
2019: 187 ▲

198

New suppliers invited directly or approved by commissioner
2019: 137 ▲



Saved On Camera, Afro-Mic Productions, BBC One



Rio and Kate: Becoming a Stepfamily, October Films Ltd, BBC One

Chapter 5: Nations, Children's and Education, Sport



*Couch to 5K,
BBC Sport/BBC Productions*



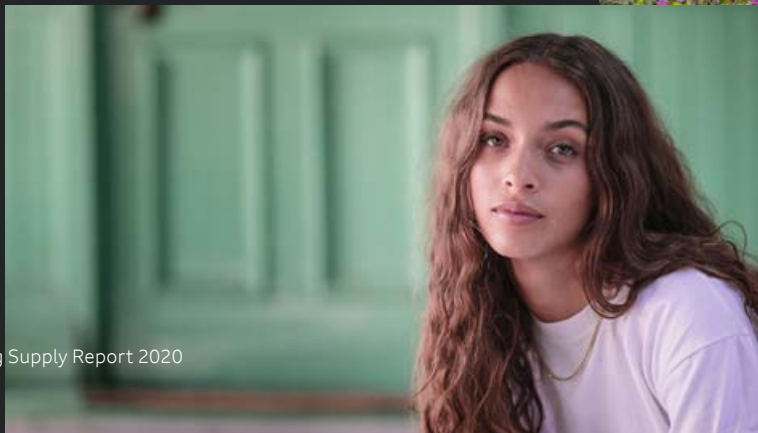
JoJo & Gran Gran, BBC In-house Production, CBeebies



Bhangra or Bust, In-house, BBC England



*Gardening Together with Diarmuid Gavin,
Waddell Media, BBC Northern Ireland*



*Black and Welsh, le le Productions,
BBC Wales*



Scotland



Getting Hitched Asian Style, Firecracker

2020 saw BBC Scotland produce over 1,500 hours of originated programming across BBC One Scotland and the BBC Scotland Channel. 44% of evening hours on the BBC Scotland Channel were originations.

This content was provided by suppliers from across the sector, representing a mix of both established and new companies.

3

Briefings

7

Co-commissions

49%

Commissioning spend indies*

100%

Development spend indies

Briefings and communications

Three briefings held online:

- BBC Three and BBC Scotland Fact Ent Development Opportunity. 140 attendees
- BBC Two and BBC Nations Co-commissioning Opportunity. 252 attendees
- BBC Scotland Commissioning Christmas Briefing. 114 attendees

Our commissioning website is updated in line with briefings and throughout the year.

Three opportunities highlighted via email, the website or both:

- Scotland's People
- Our Lives Strand
- Religious Programming

Strategic partnerships

- Partnership with Screen Scotland resulting in co-funding eight projects.
- Working with Screen Scotland and the Scottish Documentary Institute to deliver six documentaries over two years.
- Worked with BBC Arts, Screen Scotland and The National Theatre of Scotland to produce *Scenes for Survival*, commissioning 54 films, mostly from new writers/directors.
- Partnered with MG ALBA to support Gaelic language programming for BBC ALBA, resulting in over 2,600 hours of content transmitting in 2020.
- Continue to work with the BBC Writersroom Scotland.
- Seven titles co-commissioned with Network, including *Guilt 2*, *Wild Weekends* with BBC Three and the return of *Murder Case* on BBC Two. Co-productions included natural history series *Stormborn* and the landmark Factual series *Blood of the Clans*.

Support for companies during Covid

As a direct result of Covid, we quickly commissioned a number of programmes to help support the sector and reflect audience needs: *Corona Diaries*, *Socially Distanced with Susan Calman*, *Jamie Genevieve's Great Indoors*, *Reflections at the Quay*, *Scot Squad – The Chief Does The New Normal*, *Scenes for Survival*.

We also relicensed popular shows, extended the run of *Inside the Zoo* and supported all productions by contributing to Covid-related costs.

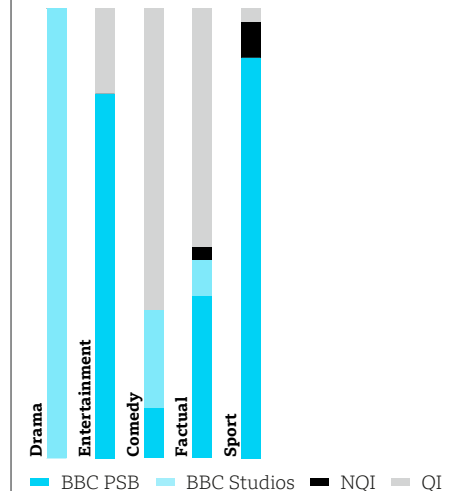
Diversity

A bespoke presentation to explain our off-screen diversity targets was presented at our Christmas briefing. We continue to accelerate entry level diverse talent. Digital strands like *The Social*, *Short Stuff* and iPlayer commissions encourage suppliers to work with new and diverse off-screen talent.

Continuing Drama *River City* reframed their story room and writing process to facilitate more opportunities for new writers, bringing through a number of first-time TV writers. They also created two new BAME characters to improve on-screen diversity.

Scottish BAFTA-winning *Being Gail Porter* highlighted mental health, *Bash The Entertainer: Behind the Smile* gave behind-the-scenes access to child refugee and social media sensation Bachala Mbunzama and *My Kind of Town* saw disabled presenter Ian Hamilton explore Scotland's towns with his guide dog.

Levels of Business by genre



Data is for BBC Scotland and BBC One Scotland. Excludes BBC ALBA, which is 94% PSB and 4% QI and 2% NQI.

Bash The Entertainer: Behind the Smile, Blazing Griffin



Wales

During an unprecedented year, BBC Cymru Wales remained committed to commissioning and broadcasting high-quality and distinctive content and worked with a large number of companies to ensure that audiences would be able to access a diverse range of programmes.

We supported the indigenous production sector with fast turnaround commissions, innovative partnerships and supercharged scripted development funds.

Despite the challenge of Covid-safe production, we continued to commission Welsh Drama, Comedy and Factual content with the whole sector displaying remarkable resilience and ingenuity.

4

Briefings

3

Co-commissions

53%

Commissioning spend indies

71%

Development spend indies

Briefings

- Quick turnaround Covid response-specific commissioning round in April 2020
- Sector briefing
- BBC Two/BBC Wales
- BBC Three/BBC Wales

Targeted briefs

Three targeted commissioning rounds:

- *Our Lives* 2021: 48 submissions, three commissions.
- BBC Wales/BBC Two co-commission: 55 entries, four in development.
- BBC Wales/BBC Three co-commission: 67 entries, five in development.

Ideas development

- Spend committed to in-house: 0%
- Spend committed to indies: 71% (17 indies)
- Spend committed to BBC Studios: 29% (1 dev)

Secondary development funding was provided to indies to produce *The New Ajanta*, *Hidden Series 3*, *Keeping Faith 3*.

Strategic development

Included:

- Partnerships with BBC Two and Three
- Ffilm Cymru and *It's My Shout*
- New Director's Initiative, championing new documentary talent to make their first film

Strategic partnerships

We partner with Network on the Small Indie Fund and Creative Wales on the BBC Three co-commissioning opportunity.

We have a number of co-commissions with Network, including:

- *In My Skin*, BBC Wales/BBC Three
- *Our Lives* 2020 – *Lily Rice Airborne*, BBC One Wales/BBC One
- *Our Lives* 2020 – *Save Our Eco Village*, BBC One Wales/BBC One

Support for companies during Covid

We launched a fast turnaround Covid-specific commissioning round in April producing *The Great Indoors*, helping to support numerous companies. Increased development cash effort in scripted Comedy and Drama.

In Factual, Comedy and Drama we supported the sector with increased Covid-related costs as well as editorial and business affairs support.

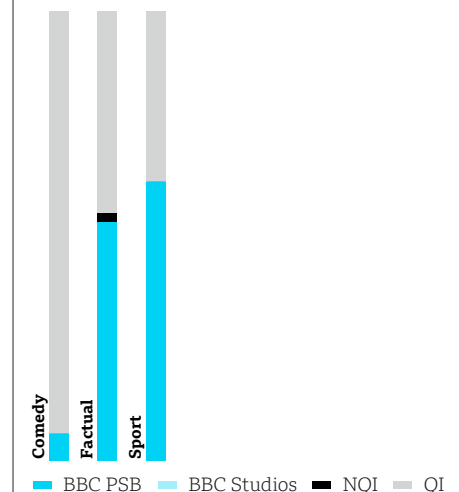
We also increased Wales-focused BBC iPlayer inventory, buying rights packages in all genres to the benefit of the indigenous sector.

Diversity

We partner with Ffilm Cymru, *It's My Shout* and Creative Wales to support diversity and inclusion. The *Beacons* and the *It's My Shout* commissions, in particular, provide a platform for 'grass roots' content makers to make their first steps into the industry.

We created bespoke content for Black History Month 2020. Filmmaker Liana Stewart met people who told the story of growing up *Black and Welsh*. Welsh football legend, Nathan Blake, shed light on the hidden history of *Black Miners*.

Levels of Business by genre



Data is for BBC One Wales and BBC Two Wales.



Lily: A Transgender Story, Telesgop

Northern Ireland

2020 was dominated by a number of high-performing fast turnaround commissions, as local suppliers responded in remarkable ways to the Covid pandemic – we documented life in lockdown, provided escapist lifestyle content and broadcast a range of nostalgic and uplifting stories, on BBC One and BBC Two Northern Ireland and the BBC iPlayer.

Our content was enhanced by strong partnerships and continued growth in co-commissioning, with a significant annual increase in development funding across all genres.

Over 412 hours of non-news content was broadcast on BBC One and BBC Two Northern Ireland.

84% of Factual content was made by independent producers.

Overall spend

- 52% spend committed to in-house
- 48% spend committed to indies
- 0% spend committed to BBC Studios

Briefings

We co-hosted webinar briefings with both BBC Three and BBC Two.

Targeted briefs and commissioning rounds

Eight targeted briefs were issued in 2020. Over 50% of the ideas submitted in the rounds were invited to pitch and around 70 commissions were awarded.

Total commissioning rounds: 7

Total commissions: 70

Ideas development

40 ideas from 18 companies were supported with development funding across the year.

Strategic development

We jointly developed a new serial Crime Drama *Hope Street*, set in Northern Ireland, with BBC Daytime and BritBox North America, with support from NI Screen.

Working with partners – strategic partnerships

In October we partnered with Northern Ireland Screen and BBC Two Network to develop and commission a significant Factual series.

Our partnership with BBC Three and NI Screen continued with a call for ideas in Factual Entertainment and supporting development proposals in Comedy.

Our work with NI Screen's Irish and Ulster-Scots Broadcast Funds has supported a range of minority language output from the local sector, including development funding in Drama.

Five titles broadcast in 2020 were co-commissions with Network: we co-commissioned two Factual Entertainment series with BBC Scotland and continued to work with Network channels in Arts and Docs.

Support for companies during Covid

In March, in response to the pandemic, we launched a call for ideas and received 180 programme proposals from 35 indies, ranging from newly created content to archive-based

programmes. This resulted in over £4.8m commissioning spend, representing 30 hours of content.

Almost £100,000 of development funding was also offered. Of the 30 development ideas arising from targeted rounds, 19 proposals were commissioned.

In spring, BBC Northern Ireland, BBC Arts and the Lyric Theatre, in conjunction with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, supported a series of Drama commissions under BBC Arts' *Culture in Quarantine*.

2

Briefings

5

Co-commissions

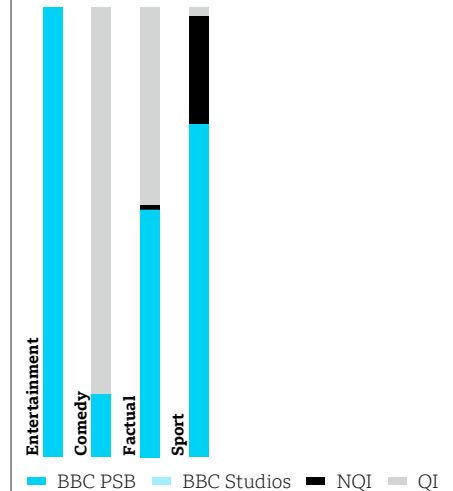
48%

Commissioning spend indies

100%

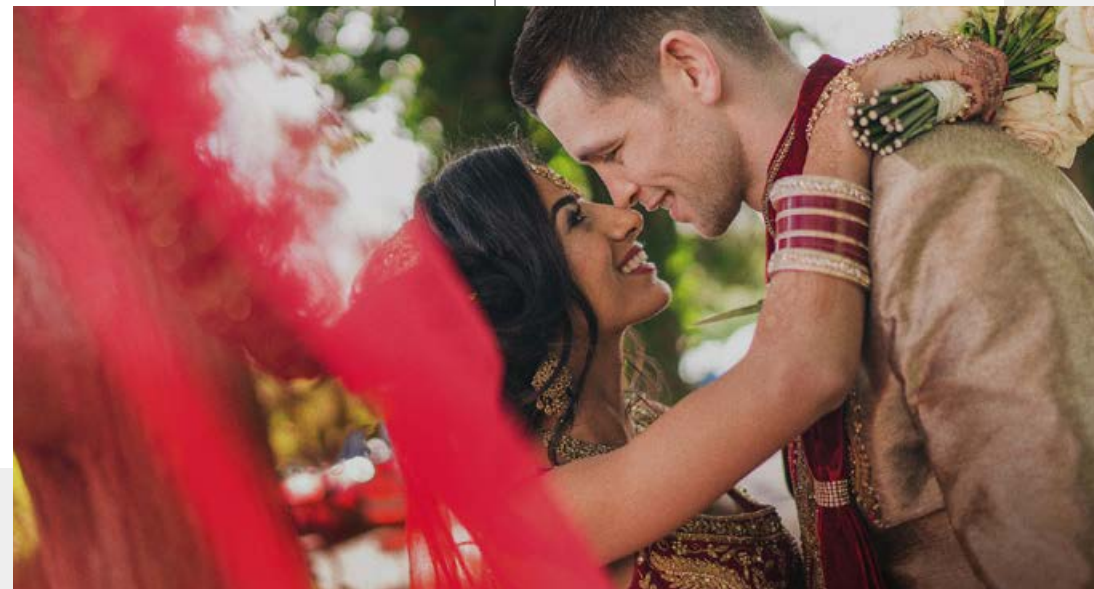
Development spend indies

Levels of Business by genre



Data is for BBC One Northern Ireland and BBC Two Northern Ireland.

A Northern Irish Wedding, Afro-Mic Productions



England

In 2020 BBC England continued to develop a non-News TV slate which has grown considerably in the last year. We prioritise programmes that reflect people's lives in communities across England and are particularly interested in unheard and diverse stories from places that are less well represented.

Targeted briefings

BBC England/BBC Two 8pm Nations/Network Co-commission.

Northern Voices Scheme BBC England/BBC Three Co-commission.

Ideas development

Ideas are now submitted to BBC England through Pitch.

Northern Voices Scheme

A partnership with BBC Three for indies in the north of England to pitch for a 1x30 Factual documentary.

Thirty-five companies pitched ideas and we commissioned:

Bricking It – Button Down
Nail Bar Boys – LA Productions
No More Bad Girl – Clockwork



BBC England/BBC Two 8pm Nations/Network Co-commission:

8x60' Factual series

- 86 companies pitched 125 ideas.
- 4 companies selected for funded development: Garden North, True North, Nine Lives, Candour.
- 1 commission.

2

Briefings

6

Co-commissions

75%

Commissioning spend indies*

100%

Development spend indies

Strategic development

We work with indies across England but in 2020 we focused almost half our spend in the North of England e.g. *Yorkshire Firefighters* (Wise Owl), *Winter Walks* (Atypical).

Working with partners

We collaborated with *Coventry City of Culture* and BBC Two to co-fund development of a 1x60 film about 2 Tone. This has now been commissioned from Birmingham-based indie Full Fat.

Support for companies during Covid

We worked hard to support indies working with us which were affected by Covid and financially supported four companies in England during

Winter Walks, *Atypical*

* Excludes sport

the pandemic – either with increased funding, flexibility on their delivery and editorial requirements or with new commissions.

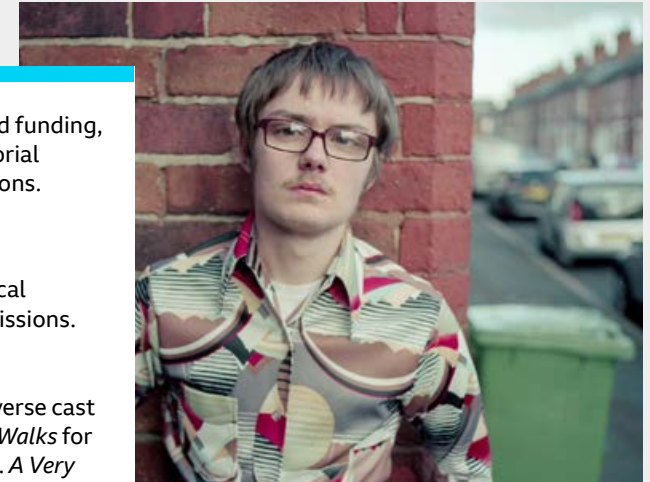
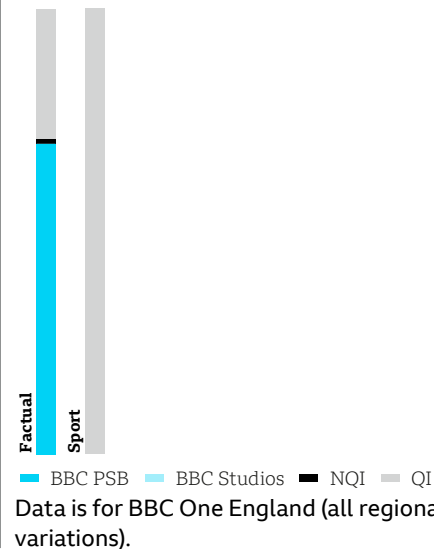
Diversity

Diversity on and off-screen is a critical consideration for all England commissions.

Highlights include:

Step into the Ring for BBC Three – diverse cast and diverse production staff. *Winter Walks* for BBC Four – fronted by diverse talent. *A Very British History* for BBC Four focused on the experience of immigrant communities in Britain and *Models: Street to Catwalk* for BBC Three was about young people from socio-economically diverse parts of North West England.

Levels of Business by genre



Our Lives: Soul Boy, BBC England In-house

Step into the Ring, BBC England In-house



Children's and Education



Blue Peter, BBC Children's In-house Production, CBBC

Children's offered high-quality content to our 0-12 audience, who turned to us in large numbers for education and entertainment during lockdown. Fast turnaround content from new and diverse suppliers helped fill the gap left by the many productions due to film over the summer months which were delayed or cancelled. Ongoing financial support for delayed productions enabled some productions to restart towards the end of the year.

Briefings and other communications

We issued 37 Newsletters including our weekly newsletters, which include the Top Ten titles for CBeebies and CBBC, and one seasonal newsletter.

We issued three specific Covid communications updating everyone on the situation right at the start of lockdown and carried this on through to summer. We also hosted two specific Covid-related webinars.

Malory Towers, King Bert Productions, CBBC



Pre Covid we held one primary commissioning briefing day in Salford and a follow up 'get together' in July as a result of Covid, which was hosted remotely.

Targeted briefs, commissioning rounds and levels of competition

100 ideas were pitched across four commissioning rounds – two in spring and autumn and two Covid-specific mini-rounds held in April and July.

Over the course of the year we commissioned five new diverse indies.

There were 32 confirmed commissions across the year with 66% from qualifying indies. Up to 70% of the slate is now contested.

Ideas development

In 2020/21 we committed development funding to more than 25 companies from a fully contestable development pot of funding. This year 17% was committed to in-house public service production teams and 83% to independent production companies. Nearly 70% was spent out of London.

What we did to support the sector during Covid

The cost of producing content was impacted due to Covid, requiring a balance of increasing funding for titles and/or a reduction in the number of episodes delivered. Creative ambition was also impacted with companies having to scale back production team size and cast sizes.



My First Festival, MCC Media, CBeebies

Children's and Education *continued*



Young, Black and British - Hear Us:
A Newsround Special, BBC Children's
In-house Production, CBBC

We quickly went to market during the first lockdown for fast turnaround programme ideas to replace delayed or cancelled content which could be produced under lockdown conditions. As a result, 33 hours of fast turnaround/Covid commissions were agreed with £5.9m spent on these commissions and restart costs to support suppliers.

Titles included *Celebrity Supply Teacher*, *Operation Ouch! – Do Try This At Home*, *At Home with Mr Tumble*, *Mimi in Lockdown*.

Diversity

We encourage off-screen diversity development via our Diversity Fund which supports under-represented groups in off-screen roles. The fund size has increased year on year to £300,000 and is supported by a new Diversity and Inclusion lead.

The *Teen Monologues* strand was introduced to enable smaller production companies to have better chance of securing their first network commission. Many commissions were made to new, diverse led companies we haven't worked with previously. The *My Life* strands continue to support new or smaller indies.



Case study: BBC Education

With less than five weeks of pre-production, the BBC Education Service was launched on 20 April 2020 to support pupils, parents and teachers during the first lockdown school closures. Over the 14 weeks of the summer term, 197 hours of *Bitesize Daily* content was made for BBC iPlayer and the Red Button and 2,000 lessons were curated on BBC Bitesize online. This was produced by BBC Education with the support of hundreds of partners including the Premier League, The Science Museum, and White Rose Maths.

Over 200 teachers were involved in creating the content and celebrities such as Sir David Attenborough, Brian Cox, Danny Dyer and Sergio Aguero signed up to help Bitesize educate kids.

During the second lockdown *Bitesize Daily* was broadcast on BBC Two and CBBC as well as being available on iPlayer, and BBC Bitesize online delivered *This Term's Topics* to support learning at home.

2,000

Lessons on Bitesize

197

Hours *Bitesize Daily* content



Tiny Wonders, Freak Productions, CBeebies

David Attenborough for Bitesize Daily



Sport



Couch to 5K, BBC Sport/BBC Productions

2020 was an extremely challenging year for sport. Many events were cancelled, postponed and/or rescheduled, resulting in significant impacts to supply, health and wellbeing considerations, changes to production workflows and additional costs.

Covid-19

The BBC provided ongoing support for independent production companies whose transmission obligations were severely disrupted. For example, the BBC worked very closely with rights-holders and the independent production companies responsible for accommodating the move of the World Snooker Championship from April to August and the return of England Test/ODI/T20 cricket highlights to BBC TV for the first time in almost two decades.

Contestability

At the start of 2020, the BBC removed the in-house guarantee for sports programmes and committed to secure competition for 100% of relevant TV programmes by the end of 2027. Which sporting events are subject to a domestic production tender is contingent on the views of rights-holders as and when new agreements are reached.

The volume of sports tenders in 2020 was down on normal levels due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19. In October 2020 the BBC secured the media rights to the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. In this instance the rights specified it was a condition of the award that it is to be produced by the BBC's in-house production teams.

Partnerships

BBC Sport are into the fifth year of their successful partnership with Public Health England to promote and provide content for the Couch to 5K app. Since lockdown last March to end-2020, there were 1.5m new downloads in the UK (bringing the total to over five million) and over 16m recorded runs. We are continuing to build on this strong platform – for example, through weaving promotion into coverage of the Tokyo Olympics and super-charging awareness across the BBC's output.

Women's Super League

In March 2021, the BBC acquired live rights to the Women's Super League for the first time in a 'landmark' three-year broadcast deal. The BBC will commission an independent producer to cover the 22 live matches, with a minimum of 18 shown on BBC One or BBC Two.



World Snooker Championship, IMG Productions



England vs West Indies cricket match, Whisper Productions

Looking ahead

Looking ahead

In 2020 the BBC was at the heart of the national response to an unprecedented global crisis. We are proud to have played a critical role – keeping shows on the road where it was safe to do so, supporting smaller companies, focusing creativity on guaranteed opportunities, expanding our education offer and continuing to entertain audiences across the UK.

The uncertainty and disruption caused by Covid-19 has meant we were unable to meet all our ambitions, targets and KPIs for 2020 as planned – our key focus in 2021 will be to get those back on track. In addition, we will use the post Covid-19 recovery to further drive our strategic ambitions as set out in the BBC's *Annual Plan* and *Across the UK* strategy.

In **Network TV**, we will begin to implement plans to further strengthen our creative and economic impact in the Nations and English regions – alongside our new Diversity commitments.

Over the next three to six years we are committed to:

Working towards a BBC target of 60% of Network TV spend outside London by the end of the Charter.

– including two-thirds of BBC Three spend.

Delivering a significant shift in portrayal in the next three years.

This includes:

- A hundred new or returning Drama and Comedy titles which reflect lives and communities outside London, of which 20 will portray Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- Two new long-running Drama series – one from the North of England and one from one of the Nations.
- Doubling the number of co-commissions from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales which appear on UK-wide channels.

Placing more decision-making outside London.

- We will grow the next generation of commissioning talent across all four Nations.
- We will bring Network and Nations' teams closer to commission content for both UK and Nations' audiences to maximise portrayal, authenticity and impact.
- We will expand the Writersroom hub in Salford, with our Head of New Writing being based there.
- We will create four new commissioning roles, to lead on writer development and support Drama Commissioning Editors in each of the Nations.

Target £100m of our commissioning spend over three years to drive positive progress on Diversity across the sector.

By asking producers to meet two of our three criteria:

1. **Diverse stories and portrayal on-screen**
2. **Diverse production leadership**
3. **Diverse company leadership**

To do this we will work in creative partnership with production companies and other organisations who share our strategic aims and values.

BBC Children's and Education have an ambition to increase our commitment to original animated content, and will be boosting development funding to give new and established creators the chance to get their ideas to screen. We will also put original educational content in a dedicated slot on CBBC, and focus on strengthening diversity and inclusion both in front of, and behind, the camera.

BBC Sport will run more independent production tenders for major sports events over the course of the next 12 months, including three major snooker tournaments and the Women's European Football Championships in England next summer.

BBC Scotland will invest in scripted development and increase co-commissioning opportunities with a view to improving the portrayal of Scotland across all platforms. We will continue to champion and support new talent through digital development pipelines such as Short Stuff and The Social.

BBC Wales will put portrayal and diversity front and centre of our creative ambition. We aim for audiences both in Wales and across the rest of the UK to see high-quality content across a range of genres.

BBC Northern Ireland will continue to grow co-commissioning across Factual, Comedy and Drama and look forward to working with suppliers on the development of longer running series and high quality content for local audiences.

BBC England will continue to support production in the North of England and North East in particular, deliver increased spend in the Midlands and work with BBC Three and Genre Heads to focus spend on co-commissions in order to maximise impact, value and portrayal.

As we come out of the pandemic, all commissioning teams will work closely in partnership with production companies, talent and the wider sector, to ensure we re-build world class creative momentum across the UK.

Appendix

The Film and TV Production Restart Scheme

The government set up [The Film and TV Production Restart Scheme](#) in 2020 to compensate producers for the costs of disruption to production due to Covid-19. Funded by the Treasury, the scheme enabled many BBC commissions to start or continue production, in the absence of usual production insurance cover. A list of BBC productions which transmitted in 2020/21 and applied to the scheme is below.*

Programme	Production company
Saving Lives At Sea	Blast Films
The One Show 20/21	Off The Fence Productions Ltd
Who Do You Think You Are?	Wall to Wall Media Ltd
Ready Steady Cook	Endemol Shine UK Ltd t/a Remarkable Television
Gordon Ramsay's Bank Balance	Humble Pie Productions Limited t/a Studio Ramsay
The Goes Wrong Show	Big Talk Productions Ltd
King Gary	Shiny Button Productions Ltd
Vicar of Dibley	Tiger Aspect Productions Limited
Pointless	Endemol Shine UK Ltd t/a Remarkable Television
Hey You What If?	Screen Glue Ltd
My Mum Tracy Beaker	BBC Children's Productions Ltd
This Is My House	Expectation Entertainment Ltd
0121	Fudge Park Productions Ltd
Beep	Happy Tramp North Limited
Worzel Gummidge	Leopard Pictures Ltd
Great British Menu	Optomen Television Limited
Mary Berry Saves Christmas	Rumpus Media Ltd
The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan	Rumpus Media Ltd
Jazz 625: The British Jazz Explosion	Somethin' Else Sound Directions Limited
My World Kitchen	Terrific Television (MWK) Ltd
Roman Kemp: Our Silent Emergency	Twofour Broadcast Limited
He Ain't Heavy	Twofour Broadcast Limited
The Ranganation	Zeppotron Limited
Royal Institute Christmas Lectures 2020	Windfall Films (Science) Limited
Musicals: The Greatest Show	TBI Media Limited
The Amelia Gething Complex	BBC Children's Productions Ltd
The Graham Norton Show	So Television Ltd

* Programmes that applied for the scheme in 2020 but transmitted in 2021/22 will be included in next year's report.

Useful links

For more background on how we work please see the following:

The 2019 Commissioning Supply Report: <http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/site/bbc-commissioning-supply-report-2019.pdf>

The 2018 Commissioning Supply Report: <http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/site/bbc-commissioning-supply-report-2018.pdf>

The BBC Commissioning website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/>

BBC Scotland commissioning: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/scotland/commissioning>

BBC Wales commissioning: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/cymruwales/commissioning>

BBC Northern Ireland commissioning: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/northernireland/commissioning>

BBC England commissioning: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/bbc-england>

BBC Children's commissioning: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/childrens>

BBC Sport commissioning: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/sport>

Top ten suppliers

By hours

- 1 IMG MEDIA LIMITED
- 2 REMARKABLE PRODUCTIONS
- 3 CACTUS TV
- 4 BOUNDLESS
- 5 TERN TV
- 6 MENTORN
- 7 WHISPER FILMS LTD
- 8 RICOCHET
- 9 SHINE
- 10 LION TELEVISION

By spend

- 1 REMARKABLE PRODUCTIONS
- 2 TALKBACK
- 3 SHINE
- 4 STUDIO LAMBERT LIMITED
- 5 DRAMA REPUBLIC
- 6 NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS LIMITED
- 7 DRAGONFLY FILM AND TELEVISION
- 8 WALL TO WALL TELEVISION
- 9 MODEST TELEVISION LIMITED
- 10 MAMMOTH SCREEN



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