

**BBC NATIONS & REGIONS** seeks to provide high-quality local, regional and network programmes and services that are valued by audiences throughout the UK, connecting them to their communities and contributing to their sense of belonging.



The *Politics Show* integrates BBC Nations & Regions political output with UK-wide network programming to better engage audiences in the democratic process.

### Key priorities for the coming year

Our key continuing commitment is:

- to continue to provide distinct communities in the UK with programmes that champion their interests, celebrate their creativity and value their diversity

For example, in particular for 2005/2006 we are committed to:

- launching local television news pilots in five West Midlands towns – a first step towards our plans for 60 local television services across the UK

Taking a longer view, over the next Charter period we will work with BBC colleagues to achieve a significant shift of staff and resources from London to the nations and regions. Our eventual aim is for half the BBC's public service staff to live and work in communities outside London.

### Democratic value

News and current affairs lies at the heart of our output, providing context as well as facts to help viewers and listeners make sense of the world. Our response to devolution means more than reflecting changed political structures: we must explain the significance of regional issues while reporting on elected and non-elected bodies.

We have reviewed local political coverage and are incorporating lessons learned about how we can engage our audiences more successfully with our programmes.

BBC Nations & Regions journalists will be at the heart of the BBC's General Election campaign coverage, providing distinctive regional perspectives. We will also work with BBC News across the whole year to increase the proportion of regional stories on BBC News 24.

Our mainstay political programming has now been successfully integrated with network output to form the BBC flagship programme *The Politics Show*. The transfer of BBC English Regions political programmes from BBC Two to BBC One has more than doubled audiences. This output has also been enriched by the website *iCan*, enabling audiences to help set the agenda.

In current affairs, *Inside Out*, the BBC's most viewed current affairs strand, will return, bringing the best local stories across England to audiences.

On radio, we will continue to ensure that our news services keep people in touch with core local issues. Following the example of BBC Radio Cumbria's responses to both the foot-and-mouth crisis and the recent flooding in Carlisle, we will provide an information lifeline in times of crisis wherever and whenever one is needed.

We are refocusing our *Where I Live* sites to reduce the local listings element, increase multimedia content and allow us to spotlight individual participation in local democracy.

### Our specific commitments are:

- to broadcast over 5,000 hours of news, politics and current affairs across our television services
- to broadcast around 280,000 hours of speech and debate across our radio stations, much of it original and one-off, connecting subject specialists and opinion leaders with listeners and callers

**Cultural and creative value** and **social and community value** are intrinsically linked in the work of BBC Nations & Regions.

In 2005/2006 we will endeavour to be more proactive in our use of community-based creative talent in non-news programmes, particularly online and in factual radio.

Passion for sport unites audiences across the UK. Over the coming year, we will maintain our commitment to a wide range of sporting activity.



Proms in the Park now takes place in four cities across the UK, encouraging both a sense of individual community and national value. Here, the crowds gather outside City Hall, Belfast.



Radio Bristol's Babe charity appeal to help raise funds for a new children's hospice is the kind of initiative central to the BBC's mission to foster a sense of community.

As well as football, with exclusive coverage of the Scottish Premier League on BBC Radio Scotland and the youth Milk Cup in Northern Ireland, for example, we will also continue to cover rugby in Wales, including the national team's efforts in the Six Nations, its North America tour and autumn internationals, as well as local team games in *Scrum V*. We will provide a further platform for young people in Northern Ireland in our coverage of key rugby and Gaelic Athletic Association events. And only BBC Nations & Regions will follow the progress of athletes in all four nations as they prepare for next year's Commonwealth Games.

We will celebrate local talent in all our programmes. For example, BBC GMR will continue to showcase Manchester comedians every weekday. And BBC WM's Saturday night slot, *The Talent Factory*, will give unsigned musicians a chance to be heard on air.

The BBC's orchestras make a vital contribution to their national cultures. The promotion we can give to other cultural activity across the whole UK through our services is also unmatched.

We will continue to support events of local importance that have a wider significance to the UK's dispersed audiences. BBC Wales will produce over 100 hours of content from the National Eisteddfod this year, and we will showcase other cultural festivals including Melas and the Gaelic Mod.

Thanks to digital technology, BBC Nations & Regions services are increasingly available elsewhere in the UK beyond their traditional broadcast areas. They will remain, however, fundamentally services for the areas they serve. Each individual station and service will continue to provide a clear focal point for a community to come together, and to connect individuals through programmes and services.

### Educational value

BBC Nations & Regions will tailor its education programmes to match the specific curricular requirements of each nation.

In 2005/2006 we will continue to provide Standard Grade *Bitesize* in Scotland and broadcast material for the Northern Ireland history curriculum, and we remain the only producer of Welsh language schools material. BBC Nations & Regions will also continue to work towards delivering an annual minimum of 35% of the BBC's in-house production for the Digital Curriculum.

Our Open Centres and buses have particular value in communities where a traditional classroom may be a barrier to learning. We will continue to seek out partners to extend our bus fleet and open new centres: already plans are under way to launch new Open Centres in Coventry and Leicester in spring 2005.

### Global value

The BBC is world-renowned for its global perspective and, within the UK, for bringing the nation together in times of national celebration or commemoration.

This year BBC Nations & Regions will support the BBC's Africa Season with unique programming for communities of African origin now settled in the UK.

**BBC ENGLISH REGIONS** aims to be the most trusted and creative community broadcaster in England, serving a widely diverse range of urban and rural communities. It provides an accessible yet authoritative service of news, current affairs, politics, arts and music, religion, sport and weather on regional television, local radio and online.



The BBC's Open Centre in Gloucester, one of seven centres providing hands-on IT learning opportunities in BBC English Regions. Two more centres will open shortly in Coventry and Leicester.

### Key priorities for the coming year

BBC English Regions will strengthen its relationship with audiences through high-quality local programming and content in 2005/2006.

Specifically, over the year ahead:

- we will prepare for a roll-out of local television services across England (for delivery via digital television, broadband and other platforms). The pilot will take place later this year in the West Midlands.
- we will also start assessing how we can deliver five new local radio services to address a clearly articulated audience need for local content in currently underserved areas.
- we will start to plan for a new television region serving 4 million people in central England.
- we will extend our existing chain of buses and Open Centres – for example Coventry and Leicester will launch in spring 2005 – in order to offer media literacy and other life-enhancing learning opportunities.

### Democratic value

BBC English Regions' local radio, regional television and online services provide a platform for debate on key local issues and extend opportunities for active citizenship and local democracy.

Our specific commitments are to:

- broadcast 3,350 hours of daily local and regional television news
- continue developments such as *iCan* and *Groundswell* which promote active democracy through local debate
- pilot a new weekly politics programme on BBC Parliament to act as a showcase for local and regional politics in England
- use the development of a more local television service to further inform viewers of local issues
- ensure both breadth and depth of coverage during the expected General Election, with the aim of fielding more cameras at counts than ever before and delivering a comprehensive 'morning after' programme in each region

### Cultural and creative value

BBC English Regions has a pivotal role to play in nurturing local talent and creativity – informally through our regular output and also more formally through ad hoc projects and a developing set of partnerships.

The current affairs series *Inside Out* will once more examine issues such as heritage, local history and landscape. And these same issues will feature regularly in our independently produced landmark programmes broadcast in individual regions throughout the year, like last year's programme about York's Railway Museum festival. We will find new ways to create dedicated regional content to accompany major BBC series as we did in 2004 with *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *British Isles: A Natural History*.

We aspire to create more opportunities for regional programming across a wide range of genres. Successful pilots of arts, sports, heritage and documentary formats have confirmed the enthusiasm of our audience for an enhanced range of local programming.

Our specific commitments are to:

- broadcast at least 250 hours of local and regional television non-news programming, including current affairs
- broadcast at least 230,000 hours of local radio output
- broadcast a range of output under the banner *Voices* which examines issues around dialect, accent and the way we speak
- seek to develop new partnerships along the lines of *Roots* – an Arts Council/BBC English Regions initiative with a focus on developing talent and generating new commissions from minority ethnic groups
- continue to celebrate cultural success and new talent in our local and regional output through on-air features and off-air workshops, advice and exhibitions
- further develop storytelling projects which invite members of the audience to tell their own stories in video or audio, encouraging creativity, promoting media literacy and increasing access to the BBC
- roll out and further develop our innovative *Junior Football* local websites with the aim of promoting sport amongst young people and families and providing an arena for them to link up and express their enthusiasm

BBC English Regions television programming is available on BBC One (analogue, Freeview channel 1, cable channel 101 and satellite channel 101) and on BBC Two analogue.

All regions are available to all digital satellite viewers regardless of where they are in the UK on channels 944 to 958. All local online content can be accessed from [bbc.co.uk/england](http://bbc.co.uk/england) and [bbc.co.uk/news](http://bbc.co.uk/news). Regional text information is available through Ceefax and BBCi. BBC local radio stations are available via the internet, on FM across England and on AM and DAB digital multiplexes in some areas.



John Prescott being interviewed by BBC local radio station BBC GMR.



*Midlands Today*, one of BBC English Regions' news programmes informing audiences of local issues.

- run Sports Awards events across England celebrating the best in local and community talent

### Educational value

BBC English Regions' seven Open Centres and 12 buses have a track record in providing learning opportunities to thousands of individuals each year. These include hands-on IT experience at the most basic level right through to the use of modern media production technology.

#### Our specific commitments are to:

- seek to extend the provision of buses and Open Centres to other areas in England
- continue our programme of work on media literacy with schools and other community groups
- strengthen our two-way learning partnership with access and community radio and television stations
- continue to offer high-quality work experience with a particular focus on developing an interest in the media amongst minority ethnic communities

### Social and community value

BBC English Regions' output is central to the BBC's mission to foster a sense of community.

Our network of multimedia operations based in and serving their local areas is a powerful force for local cohesion. We listen to our audiences and as a result are developing plans for:

- a network of around 50 local television services which will provide an easily accessible ten-minute bulletin of local news and information throughout the day, every day
- five more BBC local radio stations based in Somerset, Dorset, Cheshire, Bradford and the Black Country
- a new analogue television region serving central England based in Milton Keynes
- an extension of our chain of Open Centres and buses to enable us to make media literacy and other learning opportunities more accessible to a wider audience
- a continued drive to ensure that BBC local services are available on all platforms

#### In terms of our existing output, our specific commitments are to:

- continue to develop our key partnership with Community Service Volunteers which enables us to meet local needs by raising awareness of them via our programming and encourages volunteering and other support.
- maximise the ability of BBC local radio, in particular, to act as a focus for fund-raising and awareness-raising initiatives which draw communities together. In 2005/2006 we aim to replicate the success of two separate million pound appeals which in 2004 helped to fund a local children's hospice near Bristol and a centre focused on preventing and treating prostate cancer in Devon.
- continue to act as a focal point, bringing communities together to mark key local events such as the concert to raise money for the Boscastle flood victims, staged by the BBC in the South West. We will celebrate community spirit through the Community Champion Awards in a number of regions.
- create several new outreach projects and support a variety of existing projects which build media literacy and strengthen the BBC's links with communities across England.

### Global value

Many of the ethnically diverse groups we serve with our local output also have family and community interests outside the UK and we are uniquely placed to cater for these. All BBC local radio stations are now streamed on the internet and we will continue to find new ways to use this capability to connect individuals and communities on a global scale.

#### Our specific commitments are that:

- we will develop a closer working relationship with BBC World Service. This will help us to set local stories in a global context and will include a series of staff exchanges between BBC Local Radio and BBC World Service.
- we will build on the profile of popular local radio programmes – like *Cornwall Connected* – which link parts of England to their global community of interest via internet streaming.

**BBC SCOTLAND** produces a rich and broad range of high-quality and distinctive television and radio programmes for all age groups that properly reflects the diverse nature of Scotland and celebrates all aspects of Scottish culture and heritage for audiences in Scotland and across the UK.



The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra is committed to promoting new work from established and emerging talent.

### Key priorities for the coming year

Across all its services and stations, BBC Scotland's key priority for 2005/2006 is to develop its position as the national broadcaster for Scotland.

- on BBC One Scotland, in the face of increasing competition, we will aim to maintain audience reach and share at 2004/2005 average levels by continuing to invest in high-quality and distinctive Scottish content
- BBC Two Scotland and BBC Radio nan Gaidheal will seek to build reach among younger Gaelic-speaking viewers and listeners, and learners of the language
- BBC Radio Scotland will aim to improve its impact on audiences through more interactivity – from phone-ins to community-based broadcasts – taking it closer to people across the nation
- BBC Scotland Interactive will increase its outreach activity to promote digital literacy and content creation among new and existing users

### Democratic value

BBC Scotland will continue to provide Scotland's most comprehensive multimedia service of news and current affairs.

*Reporting Scotland* will aim to maintain the reach and share appropriate for the nation's most watched bulletin (48% reach and 30% share) while seeking to deepen analysis and build impact.

Political programmes such as *Holyrood Live* and *Politics Tonight* will report from Scotland's parliament at Holyrood, as well as from Westminster and Brussels, while seeking to engage all sections of the audience with civic and political processes and issues distinctive to Scotland.

The weekly current affairs show *Eòrpa* will continue to provide distinctive coverage of European issues from a Scottish perspective. Another series, in conjunction with the Gaelic Media Service, is planned.

### This year we will broadcast:

- over 500 hours of television news and current affairs, of which at least 100 hours will be current affairs and political coverage
- at least 2,200 hours of radio news and current affairs

### Social and community value

BBC Scotland will continue to unite audiences across Scotland with events of a national character, on television, radio and online, which appeal to the mainstream audience. We will provide high-quality observational documentaries such as *Teacher, Teacher* on topics which matter to our audiences.

We will increase interaction with audiences at a local level with initiatives such as *Let's Do the Show Right Here!* on BBC Radio Scotland and blogging on BBC Scotland Interactive.

Programmes such as *Life Stories* on BBC Radio Scotland and a major television series on Scotland's immigrant communities will help BBC Scotland to reflect a more diverse range of cultures and voices from across the nation.

Drama will continue to highlight contemporary social issues in *River City* and link with other sections of the output to give audiences the opportunity to explore such issues in greater depth. Telephone advice lines will be provided when appropriate, as in the past when the storyline has covered issues such as anencephaly and abortion, and child sex abuse.

We will spend £2.1 million on Gaelic television and online. Gaelic television and BBC Radio nan Gaidheal will continue to broaden reach and support the future of the language by increasing the appeal of output for younger sections of the audience and for learners. An innovative multimedia learning resource, *Colin and Cumberland*, will be launched, combining animated films on television with online resources and games.

### Cultural and creative value

BBC Scotland will continue to nurture and build appreciation of traditional and contemporary Scottish culture.

Music and arts content such as *Artworks Scotland* on television will continue to identify and showcase new and established talent. Programmes such as a new television series on Scotland's linguistic traditions, *Past Lives* on radio, and websites such as *Mela Scotland* and *Scotland on Film* will support the enrichment of our audience's appreciation of Scotland's cultural heritage.

BBC One Scotland is available on analogue television, digital satellite (channel 102 and 960), digital cable (channel 102) and Freeview (channel 2). BBC Radio Scotland is available on 92.4–94.7 FM, MW 810 (Dumfries MW 585), digital satellite (channel 866), Freeview (channel 89), DAB digital radio and cable. BBC Radio nan Gaidheal is available on 103.5–105 FM, (Aberdeen MW 990), digital satellite (channel 889), Freeview (channel 90), DAB digital radio and cable. For further information please visit [bbc.co.uk/scotland](http://bbc.co.uk/scotland)



*Tartan Shorts* helps develop new Scottish screen-writing and other creative and production talent. Here, Derek Riddell plays the lead role in the short-film drama *Trumshie McFadgen*.



Next year BBC Scotland will broadcast at least 270 hours of music and arts on radio and television, including *Artworks Scotland*.

A major tri-media project on Gaelic song, *Aig Cridhe ar Cùil*, will tell the story of one of Scotland's richest cultural treasures with new performances of the most important songs in the canon.

In comedy, we will provide opportunities for a new generation to develop their skills on television and radio.

BBC Scotland will offer audiences a broader range of sporting coverage than any other Scottish broadcaster, including football and shinty on television and, on BBC Radio Scotland, the most comprehensive coverage of Scottish football on any single medium, from live game commentary to punditry and comment.

The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra will continue to promote new work from established and emerging talent in Scotland, expand its educational activities by using new media to deliver its learning programme to remote communities, and take live music to towns across Scotland from Dumfries to Inverness. During the year, the orchestra will move to a new permanent base in Glasgow's City Halls with a concert programme designed to draw in and build new audiences.

#### Our specific commitment:

- in addition to weekly specialist music strands on radio, we will broadcast at least 270 hours of music and arts coverage on radio and television

Full-scale, year-round drama production in Dumbarton for *River City* will continue to offer Scottish creative talent at all levels the opportunity to develop its skills on home ground. BBC Scotland will continue to support *Tartan Shorts* and *Tartan Smalls* which identify and develop new Scottish screen-writing and other talent across the gamut of creative and production skills. This year we will work with partners for the first time, including Scottish Screen, to give new creative teams the chance to develop their own ideas for feature films.

Network programmes for all BBC UK services will reflect the best of Scottish creativity and talent for audiences throughout the UK. This year we will again aim to provide a significant proportion of network children's output – at least 18% – and also maintain our existing level of network drama, factual, arts and entertainment programmes. We delivered more than 200 hours across these genres in 2004/2005, and this year we will at least match this.

BBC Scotland Interactive will extend its blogging service, introducing new features, and will encourage the development of community journalism to supplement mainstream output. More audio/video content will be rolled out in the context of increasing broadband take-up.

Work will continue in support of the University of Abertay's new electronic media talent project, *Dare To Be Digital*.

#### Educational value

Education is about extending horizons. In 2005/2006 BBC Scotland will continue to produce groundbreaking factual series which extend awareness and deepen understanding of aspects of contemporary Scotland.

*River City* will highlight issues of social concern in an accessible format and audiences will be guided to advice and support where appropriate.

More formally, distinctive aspects of the Scottish curriculum will be reflected in additional resources for the BBC Digital Curriculum, including resources for learning in Gaelic. This year we aim to make at least 17 hours of schools output across terrestrial and digital television and radio.

BBC Scotland's programmes for CBBC and CBeebies, including returning series like *50/50* and the award-winning *The Raven*, will continue to set standards for innovative public service broadcasting for our younger audience.

**BBC CYMRU WALES** is committed to producing high-quality, distinctive services which reflect the unique culture and history of Wales, and its social and political landscape. Our key ambition is to foster an inclusive and participatory engagement with audiences in Wales across our range of services.



BBC Cymru Wales offers over 500 hours of English language television news and current affairs including *Wales Today* on BBC One Wales.

### Key priorities for the coming year

In 2005/2006, BBC Cymru Wales will once more reflect the variety of life, experience and opinion found across Wales through our range of Welsh and English services on radio and online, and in English on terrestrial and digital television.

Specifically we will:

- continue to demonstrate our commitment to Welsh language television output by supplying S4C with ten hours of content per week.
- aim to deepen and extend outreach to our audiences principally in the implementation of our Community Strategy. Working in tandem with local communities, we hope to use their stories to enhance our output and build strong, lasting, mutually beneficial, creative alliances. We will use what we have learned from previous projects in Pill, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Rhyl to do this.
- continue to seek ways to harness digital technologies to reach new audiences, and to add impact through interactivity to existing audiences across all platforms.

### Democratic value

News will continue to be the cornerstone of our offering.

We will continue to reflect the political landscape of Wales, encouraging audiences to play a full part in political debate on the weekday *Nicola Heywood Thomas* programme on BBC Radio Wales and through *Taro'r Post* on BBC Radio Cymru.

We will also supply comprehensive coverage of the expected General Election to the Westminster Parliament across all our services in both languages.

These programme examples will form only a part of our overall news and current affairs offer, which will include providing:

- over 500 hours of English language television including *Wales Today*
- over 1,500 hours on BBC Radio Wales
- at least 1,000 hours on BBC Radio Cymru

As the major producer of Welsh language output, we will also provide over the year at least 180 hours of news to S4C covering Wales and the rest of the world, including: *Newyddion*; short weekday evening bulletins; *Ffeil*, the weekday bulletin for children; and *Yr Wythnos*, a weekly summary for Welsh learners.

In addition, we will produce over 500 hours of coverage of the National Assembly's proceedings for broadcast on S4C2.

Our education department will launch an exciting and innovative drama-based project, *Citizen*, that will adapt classical Greek drama using new technologies to engage young people across a broad range of social and political issues.

BBC Radio Cymru will build on its success in drawing a younger audience with a new programme designed to raise political awareness among young people.

### Social and community value

Active, informed citizenship and digital literacy will be encouraged through online services such as *iCan*, local content on *Where I Live/Lleol i Mi* sites, and through our community strategies and digital literacy partnerships.

BBC Cymru Wales New Media will help deliver *Voices/Lleisiau*, a multi-platform pan-BBC project celebrating and exploring the diverse languages, dialects and accents of the UK.

We will further enhance our charity broadcasts through innovative formats – including animation – and scheduling across our services, and will always involve the charitable sector in Wales as active partners throughout the process.

### Cultural and creative value

Drama, comedy, music, arts, education and documentary – BBC Cymru Wales produces programmes across the full range of genres.

This year, excluding news and current affairs, we will broadcast:

- over 7,000 hours of output on BBC Radio Cymru
- 5,500 hours on BBC Radio Wales
- a minimum of 500 hours on television in English and Welsh



Falkland's veteran Simon Weston will follow up last year's *Weston's Warriors* with landmark special *Weston's Forgotten Heroes* to mark VJ Day.



*Y Clwb Rygbi* – sport will continue to play a central part in BBC Cymru Wales output in both languages.

BBC One Wales is available on analogue television, digital satellite (channel 101 and 942), digital cable (channel 101), and Freeview (channel 1). BBC Two Wales is available on analogue television. BBC 2W is available on digital satellite (channel 102 and 961), digital cable (channel 102) and Freeview (channel 2). BBC Radio Wales is available on 93.9–95.9, 103.7 and 103.9 FM, 882, 1125 (mid-Wales), 657 (north-east Wales) MW, Freeview (channel 89), digital satellite (channel 867), digital cable, DAB digital radio and online. BBC Radio Cymru is available on 92.4–96.1, 96.8, 103.5–105 FM, Freeview (channel 90), digital satellite (channel 904), digital cable, DAB digital radio and online. For further information please visit [bbc.co.uk/wales](http://bbc.co.uk/wales)

**Key landmarks will include:**

- a series marking the anniversary of the end of World War 2 looking at the Home Front in Wales
- a programme to mark VJ Day presented by Simon Weston
- a new wildlife format presented by Iolo Williams involving audiences across Wales in observing wildlife in their area
- a season of comedy and documentary marking the centenary of Cardiff becoming a city

We will provide coverage on radio, television and online of Wales' major cultural events including the National Eisteddfod, the Urdd National Eisteddfod, the International Festival of Musical Theatre and local cultural festivals.

Highlights of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World heats will be broadcast nightly on BBC 2W and there will be comprehensive coverage of the competition on radio and online. The final will be broadcast on network BBC Two and Radio 3.

The BBC National Orchestra of Wales will make over 80 programmes across Radio 3, BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio Cymru and BBC Four, and will give over 50 public concerts.

BBC Radio Cymru will continue its crucial role in fostering young musical talent. It will offer recording sessions to bands and commission a musical featuring young people from schools in north-east Wales, to be staged as part of the International Festival of Musical Theatre. BBC Radio Wales will also seek out new pop talent and feature it in its output.

In the year ahead we project that we will supply over 125 hours of television output to the BBC UK-wide networks. Drama will include the return of the cult series *Doctor Who* to BBC One, a second series of *Bodies*, and *Rome*, a new series for BBC Two. *Royal Palaces* will be a new factual series for BBC Two and BBC Four.

Sport will continue to play a central part in our output in both languages and we will cover the Welsh rugby team in the Six Nations, the summer tour to North America, and the Autumn Internationals, as well as the national team's efforts to qualify for the football World Cup 2006.

Over 90 hours of original drama will be part of the 520 hours of Welsh language television programming that we will continue to provide to S4C. BBC Radio Wales will broadcast six new comedies and BBC Radio Cymru will offer new writers their first opportunity to hear some of their work on air.

BBC Cymru Wales programmes will be made available through the Interactive Media Player and we will deliver on-demand video and audio content. We will also make the Creative Archive available in Wales.

We will encourage more audience participation in content creation using the internet as a window for the public's creative output through sites such as *Where I Live/Leol i Mi*.

**Educational value**

We will develop our range of services for learners, teachers and schools in Wales including the Digital Curriculum. In 2005/2006 we will develop the resources for those who want to learn Welsh, launching *The Big Welsh Challenge* and *Colin and Cumberland*, creating a new community of learners and mentors from amongst fluent Welsh speakers by working with the Welsh Language Board and other partners.

We will also produce a literacy campaign across our services, using the successful *Bobinogs* format, a series which has social and community value for three to seven year olds.

We will air a new series of *Look Up Your Genes* on BBC Radio Wales, helping people to develop computer literacy by researching genealogy.

The BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales' education programme will include workshops in Butetown culminating in the Butetastic concert of gospel and inspirational music. It will also work with schools across Wales, with India Dance Wales and the National Youth Orchestra in public concerts.



**BBC NORTHERN IRELAND** aims to provide something of value for everyone in the community through a broad range of programmes and services which inform and stimulate debate, celebrate and support cultural and sporting life, and reflect local interests and experiences for audiences within Northern Ireland and across the rest of the UK.



Programmes such as *The Stephen Nolan Show* facilitate debate and give voice to the diversity of opinion in Northern Ireland.

### Key priorities for the coming year

This year BBC Northern Ireland will once more reflect the diversity of life, opinion and experience of communities in Northern Ireland, nurturing and showcasing talent, reaching a wide range of audiences and presenting a broad view of Northern Irish society and culture to the UK audience.

Specifically, we will:

- aim to maintain levels of audience approval year on year, in the face of an increasingly competitive local media marketplace, by delivering trusted news and high-quality factual and entertainment content.
- deliver increased value for money to licence fee payers by reprioritising our portfolio of services and genres. This year we will concentrate on developing comedy (an expensive genre to cultivate, but one that is important for local audiences), and specialist factual programmes, and on the enrichment of our radio services.

### Democratic value

News and current affairs is at the heart of our service to the audience, and has been throughout the political and security events of the last 30 years. BBC Northern Ireland provides distinctive and accessible news, documenting civic and political life through widely watched and listened-to programmes such as *Good Morning Ulster*, *BBC Newsline* and *Spotlight*.

We will continue to supplement this with programmes such as *Talkback*, *The Stephen Nolan Show* and *Let's Talk* on radio and television, which facilitate debate and give voice to the diversity of opinion in Northern Ireland. This is all complemented by [bbc.co.uk/ni](http://bbc.co.uk/ni).

Finally, we provide context to often difficult issues through documentary output charting history such as *You Thought You Knew*. We will also continue to investigate contemporary life by covering topics such as the ethnic experience, the challenges facing fishing communities and religious belief.

We will build on our strengths in current affairs, making our journalism relevant to network audiences and bringing the stories that matter to life.

Our specific commitments are that:

- BBC Radio Ulster will broadcast over 1,550 hours of news and current affairs and BBC Radio Foyle will broadcast over 380 hours
- on television we will broadcast 325 hours of news and current affairs and increase the hours of factual programming for BBC One to 100, with more single documentaries covering the range of issues and subjects of interest to local audiences

### Social and community value

Northern Ireland is a diverse place and yet the audience as a whole is often drawn together around particular programmes, events and a general sense of place. BBC Northern Ireland is uniquely placed to provide shared experiences and connect audiences.

We will continue to showcase and create community events such as Proms in the Park to reach out to audiences over the summer. We will also find new ways for people to share their own stories. *My Story* on BBC Radio Ulster will build on the success of *This Place*, a series of personal stories from teenagers for television, online sites like *Your Place and Mine*, and the major pan-UK initiative *Voices*.

BBC Northern Ireland will continue to invest in comedy, provide a popular focus on community life, and produce programmes of shared interest exploring local history, inspiring individual stories and the natural world. This will include taking the approach from the successful *Bits of Belfast* series to a Northern Ireland-wide basis, looking at aspects of World War 2's impact across the region, following the Brent geese on their journey to and from Strangford Lough, and exploring the coast of Northern Ireland on television and radio.

Our specific commitments are that:

- BBC Northern Ireland will broadcast at least 640 hours of local television and over 8,400 hours of local radio in 2005/2006
- we will pilot new, more localised content and use interactivity to connect people together in new ways across radio, television and online



BBC Radio Ulster's *Your Place and Mine* programme and its related website reflect the mosaic of life in Northern Ireland.



BBC Northern Ireland's Big Yellow Bus crosses the region helping develop media literacy skills in local communities.

BBC One Northern Ireland is available on analogue television, digital satellite (channels 101 and 943), digital cable (channel 101), and Freeview (channel 1). BBC Two Northern Ireland is available on analogue television, digital satellite (channel 102 and 962), digital cable (channel 102) and Freeview (channel 2). BBC Radio Ulster is available on 92–95.4 FM, 1341 MW, 873 MW (Enniskillen), digital satellite (channel 868), digital cable (871), Freeview (channel 89) and on DAB digital radio. BBC Radio Foyle is available on 93.1 FM, 792 MW and on Freeview (channel 90). BBC NI Television and BBC Radio Ulster/BBC Radio Foyle programmes may also be found online at [bbc.co.uk/ni](http://bbc.co.uk/ni)

**Cultural and creative value**

BBC Northern Ireland will continue to explore and reflect the many facets of our cultural, linguistic and sporting heritage across all platforms. This will include providing an insight into cultural life in Northern Ireland for a UK audience through programmes such as *The Culture Show* and musical input to Radio 3.

We will continue to showcase cultural life through programmes such as *Arts Extra* on BBC Radio Ulster and online, and by increasing the range of partnerships, including those with the Belfast Festival and in projects like *A Picture of Britain*.

We will nurture new talent in projects like *My Story*, and by developing new comedy on radio and television. With our drama output we will provide a UK platform for writers and performers.

Innovative programmes this year will include a new approach to history in *Flight of the Earls*, special programming marking the 30th anniversary of BBC Radio Ulster, and new personal storytelling and short-form formats.

BBC Northern Ireland will continue to cover the diversity of sports interests by expanding the sports magazine, *Season Ticket*, and providing live coverage on television and on BBC Radio Ulster/BBC Radio Foyle where rights allow.

**Our specific commitments:**

- this year, BBC Northern Ireland will increase the number of arts documentaries on television from 2004/2005 levels
- we will continue to develop our services to Irish and Ulster Scots audiences, responding to the major audience survey conducted during the past year and other community inputs

**Educational value**

BBC Northern Ireland complements the BBC's wider portfolio and helps to meet unique learning needs in Northern Ireland.

This year we will once more address local differences in school curricula – like history – through media literacy initiatives supported by the BBC bus across the region (often in physically isolated areas), a project facilitating Irish language learning, and, more formally, further development of content for the Digital Curriculum.

We will continue to provide wider knowledge-building opportunities for mainstream audiences through our general factual output in the areas of history, business, music and arts, and natural history, making more innovative use of partnerships, interactive opportunities and linkages between and within local and network services.

**Our specific commitment:**

- BBC Northern Ireland will broadcast 16 hours of schools provision on radio and television