

BBC NEWS aspires to be the world's most trusted news organisation: accurate, impartial and independent. We aim to be truthful and fair. Our journalism explores multiple viewpoints and gives voice to a wide range of opinions in order to serve all audiences. We seek to act in the public interest and resist pressure from political parties, lobby groups or commercial interests.



Fiona Bruce will be one of four presenters fronting BBC television's election night coverage.

Key priorities for the coming year

In 2005/2006, BBC News will:

- continue to implement the recommendations of the Neil Report to uphold accuracy and impartiality in our reporting
- implement recommendations to be agreed with the Board of Governors in order to improve our coverage of the EU
- provide impartial and informative coverage of the expected General Election campaign and prepare for a possible referendum on the EU constitution
- increase the prominence and appeal of current affairs programming on BBC One
- take steps to enhance our coverage of the Middle East

Democratic value

The BBC supports civic life and national debate by providing trusted and impartial news and information through a range of local and network programmes and services across radio, television and new media.

BBC News aspires to the highest standards in news reporting, in accuracy, in impartiality and in creating a better understanding; engaging audiences in stories that matter by 'making the important interesting'.

Our most-watched news bulletin, the *Ten O'Clock News*, will retain its ongoing commitment to reporting international stories to UK audiences.

The *Six O'Clock News* will continue in particular to report from across the UK, while *Newsnight* will feature the key interviews of the day for a television audience.

Our continuous news channel, BBC News 24, will cover breaking news stories and make available the expertise of the BBC's range of specialists.

Radio offers the time and space to report across a wide agenda, conduct detailed analysis of policy and ask questions that otherwise do not get asked, often directly of the key decision makers.

BBC Radio 4 will bring listeners daily news and current affairs through *Today*, *The World at One*, *PM*, the *Six O'Clock News* and *The World Tonight*.

Global news is an important dimension. Through, for example, *From Our Own Correspondent* and *Crossing Continents*, we seek to 'be there' before a story becomes big and to revisit it after it has ceased to be the centre of attention.

BBC Radio Five Live's focus will be on live coverage of unfolding events, giving context and explaining the implications, while also reflecting the diversity of the UK.

This year we will forge greater ties and cooperation between Five Live and BBC Asian Network to enhance the journalism of both networks.

BBC Radio 1's dedicated news team will provide its young listeners with a tailor-made service including the flagship *Newsbeat* programmes and regular bulletins throughout the day. It will focus on issues of particular relevance to this audience, while encouraging them to explore a broad range of subjects. This team will work closely with the news team at 1Xtra, which also offers a 24/7 targeted news service, *TX*, plus a weekly documentary within the daily magazine programme *TX Unlimited*.

BBC Radio 2 offers a variety of news programmes, from *The Jeremy Vine Show* to the rich hourly bulletins that, like the bulletins on BBC 6 Music, offer more than just a news update.

This year we will enhance the distinctive journalism on offer to users of interactive media, for example by boosting specialist coverage of science and technology. We will also seek to grow the usage of bbc.co.uk/news by making it easier to search, allowing personalisation, and providing a short-form 'distilled' version.

News content will form a part of the pilot of the Interactive Media Player, and we will further innovate with services for mobile phones and other handheld devices.

We seek to generate high impact with our current affairs programmes on television and radio through analysis and investigations. This year, there will be new analysis programming on BBC Two. Investigations will form a core part of *Panorama*, which will broadcast more peak-time specials, and of *Real Story*, which will be relaunched as a single-subject programme.



Radio, such as the *Today* programme, offers the time and space to report across a wide agenda and to conduct detailed analysis.



bbc.co.uk/news provides continuous coverage of local, national and international news stories supported with context and analysis, as well as on-demand access to the main network television and radio bulletins.



BBC News is available across all platforms – television, radio and new media

Investigative journalism on radio will continue through programmes such as *File on 4*, *Money Box Investigates*, *Five Live Report*, and *Global Account* on BBC World Service.

Also on radio, there will be programmes that open up the work of Westminster and analyse what decisions mean in practice. Radio 4 will carry *The Westminster Hour*, *The Week in Westminster* and *Yesterday/Today in Parliament*, while Five Live will continue to broadcast live coverage of *Prime Minister's Question Time*, supported with commentary and explanation.

Parliamentary proceedings will be covered on television by BBC Parliament and by *The Daily Politics* on BBC Two, rounded up each week in *This Week* on BBC One. Also on BBC One, *The Politics Show* will cover politics 'from Downing Street to your street' through its nationwide and regional/national segments. *Question Time* will provide a forum for national debate.

The BBC will have an important role during the expected General Election campaign, ensuring that UK voters have the information they need. We will explain, analyse and probe what party commitments mean for voters.

On television, there will be an extended *Ten O'Clock News*, Saturday editions of *Newsnight* and special editions of *Panorama*. The regular political programmes *This Week* and *The Daily Politics* will be enhanced, and BBC News 24 and BBC Parliament will give viewers access to fuller coverage of the campaign.

Talking Politics will cover the campaign for Radio 4 and *The World at One* will be extended to incorporate *Election Call*. Radio 4's established election night programme will be complemented by alternative programming for listeners of Five Live, BBC Asian Network and iXtra. These, along with Radio 1, will deliver coverage of the election to a young audience – including many potential first-time voters – who consume little news elsewhere.

This year we will also prepare for a possible referendum on the EU constitution.

Global value

We will seek to inform people and engage them in a dialogue about key international issues. Properly reflecting the complexity of the world back to the UK is as important as properly covering domestic events. We will cover not only the biggest stories but also tell people the stories that they would not otherwise hear, frequently using revealing eyewitness accounts

This year we will appoint a Middle East Editor to enhance our coverage of the region and will also progress plans to open a bureau in Riyadh. In addition, Radio 4 will broadcast a landmark documentary series *A Year in the Arab-Israeli Crisis* in which Edward Stourton tracks the politics of the region alongside the withdrawal from Gaza, while modern China will be examined in the documentary series *The Challenge of China*.

We will also support the Africa Season on BBC One in July, aiming to tell the stories about Africa beyond the conflicts that do not often get told.

In recognition of World Aids Day, we will feature round-the-world coverage of this important global issue.

Across our output throughout the year, we will use correspondents and experts from the foreign language services of BBC World Service to bring international expertise to UK audiences.

Educational value

Newsround, the only comprehensive daily news programme for children, will broadcast news bulletins seven days a week across BBC One, BBC Two and The CBBC Channel, while bbc.co.uk/newsround will offer children access to in-depth news 24 hours a day.

On radio, the recently enhanced news team contributing to the *Chris Moyles Show* on Radio 1 reaches a large number of children on their way to school.

Social and community value

After extensive trials and experimentation, the *iCan* website, which encourages active participation in community life, will be relaunched this year. The new, easier-to-use design will make it more intuitive for users, and the site will feature greater collaboration with our own broadcast programmes and with other community or action organisations.

BBC NEWS 24 delivers news, analysis and insight, supported by the BBC's newsgathering operations, all day, every day of the year. It provides fast, comprehensive coverage of events as they unfold – locally, nationally and internationally – and specialist analysis to put the news in context.



Provision of up-to-the-minute news from across the UK and around the world continues to be BBC News 24's core purpose.



BBC News 24 includes hourly business news updates every weekday. Here, specialist correspondent Caroline Hawley.



BBC News 24 is available on digital satellite (channel 507), digital cable (channel 10, 125 or 610) and on Freeview (channel 40). It is also available overnight on BBC One or BBC Two, on Saturday mornings on BBC Two and as special broadcasts on either terrestrial television channel in the event of significant breaking news. For further information see bbc.co.uk/news24

Key priorities for the coming year

BBC News 24's core purpose remains the provision of up-to-the-minute news from across the UK and around the world. Our key priorities for 2005/2006 are:

- to aim to deliver breaking news first, but not to the detriment of our overriding commitment to accuracy, supported by the BBC's new journalism training initiatives launched in response to the Neil Report recommendations
- to be distinctive by offering the widest range of stories across a serious news agenda, drawing on the BBC's newsgathering resources at a local, national and international level, making even greater use of the BBC's specialist journalists

Democratic value

BBC News 24 is a place where viewers can experience big news events as they unfold.

Major international stories are a strong feature of the channel, and we regularly seek views from expert contributors from across the world and across the spectrum of opinion.

We aim to cover a diverse agenda, going beyond the headlines and bringing stories to air that do not receive widespread coverage. We will ensure that we do not just report stories but that we explain them properly as well, using graphics and specialist analysis to enhance our viewers' understanding.

BBC News 24 will be the BBC's primary election channel during the expected General Election. Coverage will include highlights of the campaign, as well as press conferences, speeches, rallies and key interviews.

Analysis and insight will form the backbone of all our political output throughout the year.

Our evolving relationship with bbc.co.uk/news ensures that we offer viewers speedy access to the best information, including eyewitness accounts – a facility which provided audiences with fuller first-hand coverage of the Asian tsunami.

In addition to continuous news coverage, our specific commitments are to broadcast:

- 35 hours of political debate through programmes such as *Straight Talk*
- hourly business news from 9am to 7pm on weekdays

We will also develop a new showcase news hour featuring the best of the BBC's journalism locally, nationally and internationally.

Cultural and creative value

We will report sports news throughout the day, rounding up the day's main sports stories in *Sportsday* every evening.

Our specific commitment is to:

- deliver a minimum of 100 hours of sports news

Social and community value

This year we expect to report more than ever before from all corners of the UK, connecting viewers to each other, and better reflecting the diversity of the UK and its people. For example, we will integrate the expertise of local reporters into the continuous national news output.

We retain our commitment to coverage of the environment and rural affairs.

Global value

Our range of international stories and strong relationship with the BBC's foreign correspondents and bureaux will be complemented by our daily *World News* bulletin and strands such as *HARDTalk* and *Dateline London*.

This year we will broadcast at least:

- 200 editions of *HARDTalk* featuring long-form interviews with newsmakers and cultural figures
- 50 editions of *Dateline London*, offering an alternative viewpoint on events from foreign correspondents based in London

BBC PARLIAMENT is the only UK channel dedicated to the coverage of politics. Selected debates and committees of Westminster and the work of the devolved chambers of the UK are broadcast uninterrupted, complemented by text services and programmes that explore the politics behind the debates.



There will be regular broadcasts from the devolved chambers of the UK, such as the Welsh Assembly.



BBC Parliament gives viewers access to Parliament and the tools to understand the democratic process.



BBC Parliament is available on digital satellite (channel 508), digital cable (channel 13, 128 or 612) and Freeview (channel 45) and online at bbc.co.uk/parliament

Key priorities for the coming year

In the coming year:

- we will launch on bbc.co.uk the BBC Parliament broadband console, allowing us to deliver for the first time live coverage of the sittings of the House of Lords and on-demand highlights of both Houses, enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the service
- we will continue to explore new ways of increasing our impact by giving viewers the tools to understand the democratic process and to access the work of Parliament

Democratic value

BBC Parliament now broadcasts all day every day, with much of its airtime dedicated to the coverage of debates and committee hearings.

Providing coverage of debates and committee proceedings in full, and scheduling them to maximise accessibility, places BBC Parliament at the heart of democratic communication.

The Record interprets the day's most interesting developments in debate and in committee. *Briefings* shows news conferences and political speeches in full that have previously been heard only in sound bites.

On Saturdays, eight hours of the schedule are devoted to the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and committees reporting on Northern Ireland affairs – making a close-up view of the politics of each nation available to a UK-wide audience.

In programming from Brussels and Strasbourg, we examine the powers and influence of the MEPs and the politics of the institutions of Europe. *The Record: Europe* will continue to reflect debate on European integration in the run-up to the referendum on the EU constitution.

Our specific commitments are:

- we will broadcast 100 hours of proceedings of the Scottish Parliament and 100 hours of proceedings of the Welsh Assembly
- while the Northern Ireland Assembly remains suspended we will continue to cover hearings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
- we will broadcast the most interesting and important of Westminster's Select Committees, devoting a minimum of 400 hours a year to this coverage
- we will broadcast over 100 hours of programming from Brussels and Strasbourg (including repeats)

Cultural and creative value

We will continue to schedule special programmes and event coverage to make good use of the BBC's recent and historic archive.

Extended broadcasts of historic programming from the BBC archive broaden our appeal in a unique way, and offer a picture of political, social and broadcasting history.

In May, for example, we will mark the 50th anniversary of the 1955 General Election by showing highlights from the first recorded BBC General Election night broadcast.

Educational value

BBC Parliament makes Parliament accessible to all, not just the experts and professionals. Broadcasts of parliamentary debates and hearings use supporting text both on screen and, for digital satellite viewers, via the red button, providing background information.

The website also provides a selection of audio and video clips which provide further context.

As bbc.co.uk/parliament develops its innovative broadband console, with up to three simultaneous live streams of output and on-demand highlights, BBC Parliament will even more effectively deliver the world of parliamentary politics to people on their terms.