

Documentaries on BBC One



Docs on ONE play a key role in building both the distinctiveness and the broad appeal of ONE's factual output.

All titles should have broad mainstream appeal, and have the ability to both entertain and inform along the way.

They should also be rooted in the present tense and the national mindset, telling the strong human stories behind the big national headlines and dominant social issues.

Though they should have an accessible entry point for a broad audience, at the same time, they shouldn't be afraid of tackling important issues or of innovating with modern new shapes and concepts.

Budget Information:

In 10/11 there are opportunities for this programming within the In-House guarantee, the WoCC and the Independent quota. Please note that a number of hours have a Nations and/or Regional quota attached.

In 11/12 there are opportunities for this programming across all supply bases.

High impact original events, possibly stripped across the week

[Lambing Live](#) was unique, entertaining and engaging. What might One's version of this title look like?

These ideas should feel like an event, creating impact both on the schedule and with a strong multiplatform element.

We're looking for big, bold risky ideas. How else can we innovate beyond presenter/subject pairings - what broader concepts would fit the channel?

Provocative, topical, issue-based formats

Issue-driven formats about modern Britain. [The Day the Immigrants Left](#) and [Famous, Rich and Homeless](#) engaged a big, broad audience with difficult subject matter by using a compelling and entertaining format to bring the issues to life.

What other formats can force the nation to make up their own minds about our biggest national issues?

Purposeful, presenter led series

We're actively looking for new faces and for format innovation in this area, e.g. [Britain from Above](#).

These titles must give us something beyond travelogue, delivering personal, social or issue-based revelations.

[Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones](#), [Joanna Lumley in the Land of the Northern Lights](#) and the best episodes of [Who Do You Think You Are?](#) do exactly that.

Attention grabbing singles at 10.35 (and 9)

We're continuing to look to commission a blend of popular singles and more reputational pieces at 2235, including further mini seasons like the recent Being Mum season. Some of these titles, like the Bafta-award winning [Wounded](#), might well show at 2100 if they're really strong.

All singles should grab the attention with compelling stories and central characters, and engage the audience from start to finish with modern stories and discoveries that feel present tense.

All ideas, whether popular or reputational need a clear sense of purpose. Eye-catching titles are also key.

There are two ways in which we are looking to achieve this:

Reputational docs about real lives

Compelling documentaries about real people and real lives are key to building the reputation of documentary in the UK mainstream. Recent titles like [Between Life and Death](#), [When a Mother's Love Is Not Enough](#) and [Jobless](#) have had a huge impact on the audience in different ways.

What are the extraordinary, important and emotional stories behind the headlines about individuals or groups of individuals?

Eye catching, accessible, popular docs for a broad audience

Whether it's through incredible character-driven stories - like [*Hannah: The Girl Who Said No To a New Heart*](#) and [*The Man Who Can't Stop Hiccapping*](#) - or around absolute topicality - as with [*Repossessed*](#), [*Neighbourhood Watched*](#), and [*How Woolies Became Wellies*](#) - these titles should have the potential to cut through and attract a big audience at this time of the evening.

How else can we make viewers sit up and take notice without resorting to voyeurism or freakishness?