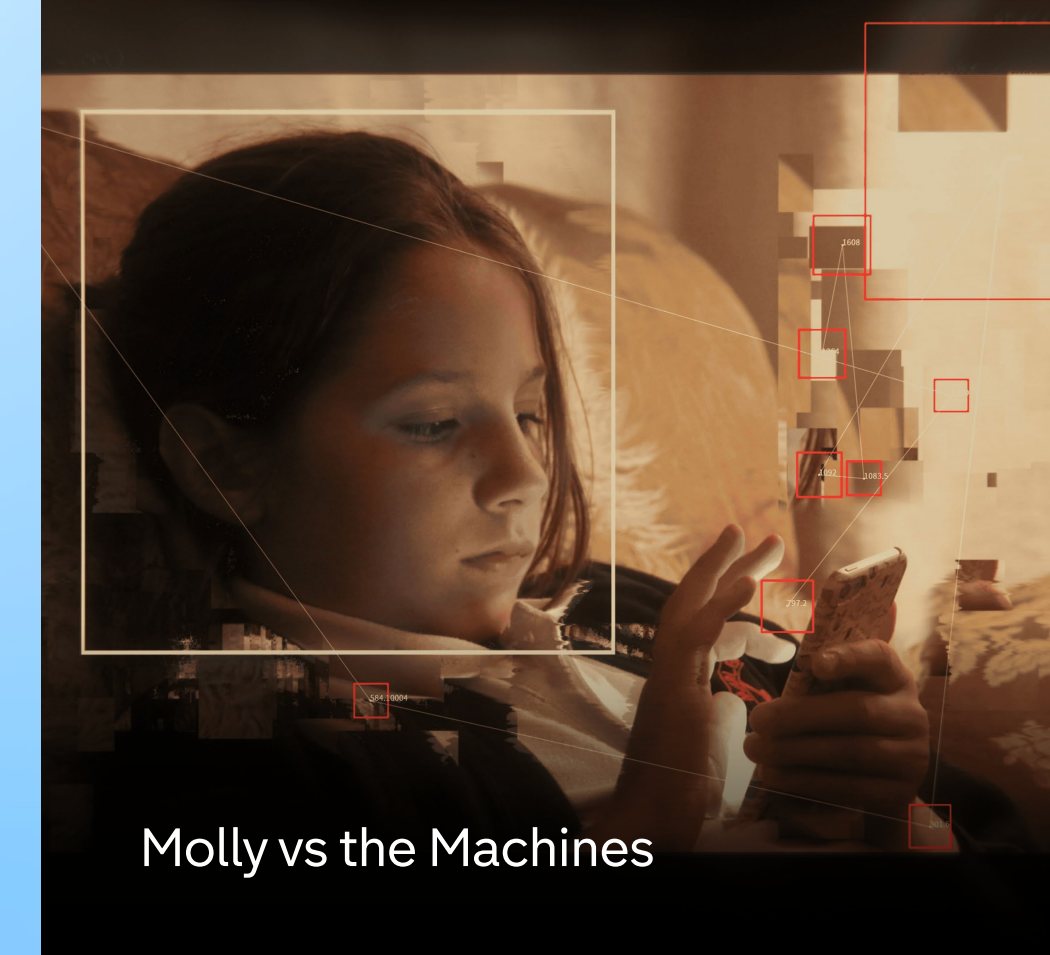




# Channel 4 Combined Plan 2026



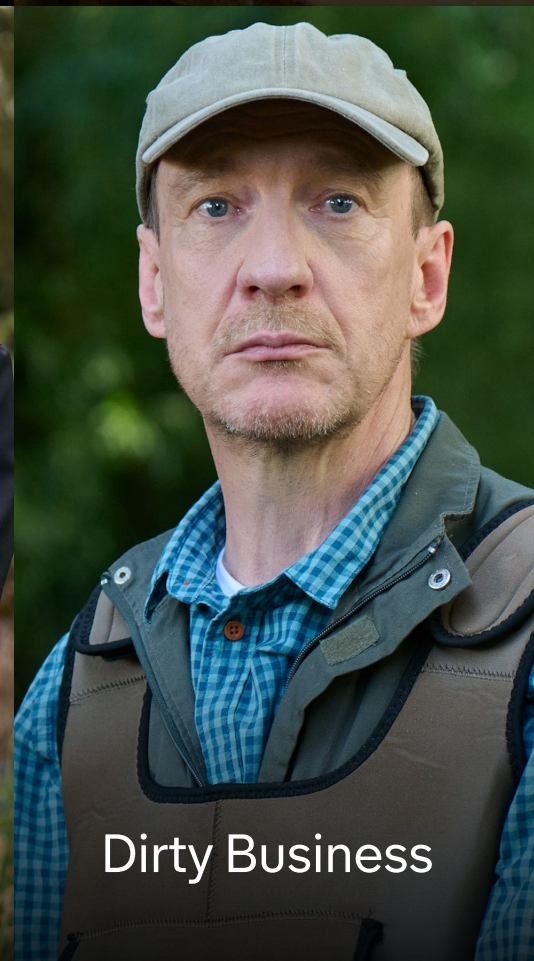
Molly vs the Machines



Gogglebox



Falling



Dirty Business



Tip Toe



Virgin Island



The Jury: Murder Trial



Rose of Nevada



Milano Cortina 2026  
Winter Paralympic Games



The Great  
British Bake Off



# Introduction and Contents

**As a publicly owned yet commercially funded PSB, with a remit to represent, challenge and reinvent, Channel 4 plays a unique and vital role within the wider public service media ecosystem.**

This document forms Channel 4's Combined Plan, which sets out our plans for delivering our remit and media content duties for the year ahead (2026 calendar year). It has been prepared in line with Ofcom's guidance.

In our Combined Review, which will be published as part of our 2026 Annual Report (expected Q2 2027), we will report on the delivery of these duties in the previous year (calendar year 2026).

As Ofcom's guidance notes<sup>1</sup>, although our remit and media content duties are separate statutory duties, there is overlap between them in practice. Much of the programming on our relevant services for remit delivery is also intended to fulfil our media content duties. For both the Combined Plan and Combined Review, therefore, where we refer to 'remit' this should be taken to cover both sets of duties.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document; however, certain details (for example, planned programming), may be subject to change.

<sup>1</sup> Ofcom, Statement of Programme Policy and Statement of Media Content Policy Guidance, p. 18.

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# Overall plans for the following year

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## Relevant services for remit delivery

The services Channel 4 intends to use to fulfil our individual remit and to make an adequate contribution to the PSB remit (i.e. 'relevant services') are:

- Main licensed public service channel ("Channel 4") and delayed transmission services ("Channel 4+1", "4seven")
- Digital channels ("E4", "E4 Extra", "Film4", "More4")

Subject to Ofcom choosing to designate it as a Designated Internet Programme Service (DIPS), Channel 4 Streaming will become a relevant service later this year.

All of these services are provided by Channel 4.

## Overarching goals

Channel 4 plays a unique and distinctive role within the PSM ecosystem with our remit to represent unheard voices, challenge with purpose and reinvent entertainment. We will continue to make bold and distinctive content that has a strong Britishness, a sense of purpose and irreverent attitude, while connecting with audiences at scale.

We will fulfil our remit and contribute to the overall PSB remit across all of our relevant services in the following ways:

- We will continue to promote truth and trust, delivering trusted, high-quality news and current affairs content, including to younger audiences that others struggle to reach.

- We will represent unheard voices and sustain British culture and values, delivering meaningful social impact and supporting social cohesion in the face of political and social fragmentation.
- We will maintain our dedicated focus on young audiences.

## Meeting audience needs

### Audience targets:

A core element of Channel 4's remit is representing the broad diversity of groups in society and the wide range of viewpoints held across the UK, especially those less frequently seen on mainstream television.

Channel 4 has a particular duty to serve younger audiences, and we're focused on going to these harder to reach audiences on the platforms where they consume content (for example, YouTube and Snapchat).

Delivering our remit across a broad range of services and platforms (including linear, digital and video sharing platforms) means we can meet the needs of as many different audiences as possible

Key programming themes and priorities:

- **Represent Unheard Voices:** We will continue to harness Channel 4's distinctive brand and expansive reach to elevate voices that are too often overlooked. From emerging writers and producers to underrepresented communities and alternative perspectives, our future content will reflect the full diversity of the UK – ensuring every story has the opportunity to be heard.

- **Challenge with Purpose:**

Looking ahead, Channel 4 will maintain its role as a catalyst for change. Through bold journalism, investigative documentaries, and provocative drama, we will confront the realities of modern Britain – sparking dialogue, driving accountability, and inspiring action.

- **Reinvent Entertainment:**

Innovation will remain at the heart of our creative strategy. We will push boundaries, take calculated risks, and explore new formats and platforms to engage audiences in fresh and unexpected ways. Our commitment to experimentation will help shape the future of entertainment and strengthen the UK's creative industries.



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## We also have the following wider goals and objectives as an organisation:

- **Fast Forward:** Our ambitious strategy, launched in January 2024, to reshape Channel 4 for a changing media landscape while staying true to our remit and purpose. The strategy is focused on delivering distinctive British content across streaming and social, growing new sources of income, and reducing operational costs – particularly in linear TV – to become a leaner, more sustainable organisation with greater impact for audiences.
- **4 All the UK:** The strategy aims to harness the creative power of production companies across the UK, expanding investment, supporting industry growth outside London, and ensuring Channel 4 authentically represents viewers from every Nation. We relaunched the strategy in 2025, focusing on Skills, Content and People.
- **4Skills:** 4Skills is Channel 4’s nationwide training and development programme, launched in 2020 and headquartered in Leeds. It aims to attract people into our sector from a broad and diverse range of backgrounds, address industry skills gaps across the UK and progress the careers of those already in the industry. The programme spans a wide range of initiatives – from working with schools to introducing young people to careers in the creative industries, to offering apprenticeships and early career opportunities, and directly supporting freelancers and independent production companies through skills development and fully funded progression roles.

## Performance measurement:

We will continue to measure our performance across our streaming service and linear channels against key indicators that assess progress against our objectives and strategy. We have agreed these metrics with Ofcom, developing a framework that best allows us to measure and articulate our remit delivery, and be held to account by Ofcom.

We will continue to report on our performance against these metrics in our Annual Report / Combined Review. These metrics include:

- Total programme views on Channel 4’s streaming platforms
- Channel 4’s portfolio share of total linear TV viewing
- Total number of minutes spent viewing Channel 4 content on streaming and social channels
- Young audiences’ viewing of the main PSM channels
- Content investment: Originations
- Content investment Originations spend in the Nations and Regions
- Content investment: Total spend
- Brand reputations: Showing different kinds of cultures and opinions in the UK
- Proportion of Channel 4’s total supplier base who are ethnically diverse
- Proportion of Channel 4’s total supplier base who are based in the Nations and Regions
- Proportion of on-screen contributions who are female, ethnically diverse, disabled or LGB

- Opportunities provided by 4Skills
- Brand reputations: Pushing boundaries
- Inspiring viewers to think differently
- Reporting the news accurately and fairly
- Innovation in content
- Brand reputations: Always trying something new
- “Fresh Faces of 4”: Developing new talent

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## Character of service

### Channel 4 (main linear channel):

Channel 4 is our primary linear television channel. Channel 4 is available in standard and high-definition on the main broadcast platforms and also encompasses our delayed transmission services Channel 4+1 and 4seven. 4seven provides another opportunity to watch Channel 4 programmes from the past week that have generated public, media, and social media attention.

### Channel 4 Streaming:

Channel 4's streaming proposition enables us to package together the widest possible variety of content: live TV, catch-up, box-sets, and an increasing volume of online-specific content, making the platform a standalone destination with a clear editorial tone of voice. Since January 2026, the service has featured content from UKTV's U platform, giving viewers access to a body of content which includes UKTV originals and BBC classics alongside Channel 4's acclaimed programming. We are maintaining investment in technology to ensure a reliable user experience which keeps pace with heightened competition and consumer expectations.

### E4:

E4 focuses on comedy, drama, and entertainment, including original commissions and US acquisitions. E4 is the second most popular digital channel for 16-34-year-olds and the second most popular digital channel in the UK.

### E4 Extra:

Our youth-facing sibling channel to E4, E4 Extra is the home of the best comedy, entertainment, and US hits.

### Film4:

The UK's leading dedicated film channel, Film4 offers a mix of the best British, European, US, and international cinema.

### More4:

More4 offers lifestyle-based content to help viewers get the most out of their everyday lives. The channel focuses on popular factual and features programming including homes, property, food, health, and fashion.

## Availability

The services through which we deliver our remit are widely available free-to-air to audiences across the UK, ensuring that we can meet the needs and interests of as many different audiences as possible.

Our linear channels are available on the main broadcast platforms (Freeview, Freesat) and offer both delayed transmission and high-definition service.

Channel 4 Streaming is available (through streaming, download or simulcast) across a wide range of platforms that include PC/laptop, tablet, mobile, game consoles, connected TVs, syndicated TV, SVOD and electronic sell through (EST).

- Channel4.com
- iOS
- Android
- tvOS
- VisionOS
- Amazon Fire

- Freeview
- Freely
- Sky Glass
- Sky Q
- Samsung
- Roku / Now TV
- YouView
- Google TV
- XBox
- Playstation PS4/5
- Virgin Horizon
- Virgin TiVo
- Amazon Vega (Keplar)
- LG
- Chromecast



# How relevant services will contribute to overall remit

## Comprehensive and authoritative news and current affairs

As a public service media organisation, Channel 4 plays a vital role in delivering credible, balanced, and reliable information to audiences across the UK through our news and current affairs programming across all of our relevant services.

We remain committed to this mission through our flagship Channel 4 News: an hour-long programme airing weeknights with a condensed edition at weekends and regularly co-anchored from our Leeds studio. Both will continue to be available and easily discoverable on Channel 4 Streaming as well as our main linear channel (and delayed-transmission channels). We will continue to deliver at least 208 hours of news in peak-viewing time per year to meet our licence quota.

At the same time, we will build on the success of the Channel 4 News brand on digital platforms including YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat. This helps us to reach younger viewers in particular with trusted, high-quality news content.

Across all of our relevant services, we will continue to provide authoritative, comprehensive, and groundbreaking coverage of both national and international stories.

Our commitment to commissioning duly impartial, fair, and accurate news is central to reinforcing public trust in public service broadcasting – particularly in an era of growing misinformation.

Beyond news, we will continue to serve audiences through our acclaimed current affairs programming across linear and streaming platforms. This includes *Dispatches*, our investigative series that holds power to account and sparks national debate, and *Unreported World*, a flagship for distinctive international reportage that shines a light on underreported global stories.

We will also remain focused on engaging younger, digitally native audiences through *UNTOLD*, our youth-skewing, streaming-first current affairs strand.

UK broadcasters have a statutory duty to ensure their news output is reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality, giving appropriate weight to a range of views.<sup>2</sup> Channel 4 takes these duties seriously, with robust processes and Board oversight to uphold editorial standards, including due impartiality.

### Information, education and entertainment

The full range of Channel 4's content – including news and current affairs, documentaries, drama and reality – across all of our relevant services contributes to a PSB system that informs, educates and entertains viewers.

#### Scripted:

As part of the Fast Forward strategy, Channel 4 has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding our drama portfolio, with 2026 positioned as a landmark year for delivery.

The schedule will feature a diverse range of high-quality productions, including a major adaptation of Barbara Taylor-Bradford's acclaimed novel *A Woman of Substance*, Russell T. Davies' suburban thriller *Tip Toe*, and *Falling* – a compelling narrative exploring a forbidden relationship between a priest and a nun, written by Jack Thorne and starring Paapa Essiedu and Keeley Hawes. These titles exemplify our ambition to deliver bold, distinctive drama that resonates with audiences.

In parallel, we have curated a dynamic comedy slate showcasing emerging talent and innovative storytelling. Highlights include *It Gets Worse*, a flat-share sitcom written by and starring Leo Reich; *Make That Movie*, a mockumentary from Sam Campbell chronicling a director's quest for unconventional film ideas; and *Break Clause*, a contemporary romantic comedy led by Lara Ricote, designed to appeal to younger audiences. This portfolio reflects our ongoing investment in originality and creative excellence across genres.

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<sup>2</sup>These obligations are set out in section five of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code.



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## Factual:

Channel 4 has delivered a highly successful period in factual programming, with acclaimed titles such as *The Push: Murder on the Cliff*, *To Catch a Copper*, and *Operation Dark Phone*. Building on this momentum, we remain committed to providing factual content that engages and informs audiences.

While much of the forthcoming slate remains confidential, announced highlights include a landmark documentary series exploring artificial intelligence, an in-depth examination of the Mitford sisters, and a comprehensive series charting the rise and fall of Tony Blair – one of the most influential political figures of his era.

Our crime and policing portfolio will be strengthened by two major access-led series, forming the backbone of this genre alongside the return of *24 Hours in Police Custody* and additional premium boxsets to be announced.

In line with Channel 4's remit to challenge power with purpose, we will continue to deliver impactful investigative journalism through *Dispatches*, *Unreported World*, and *UNTOLD*. Complementing these, the docudrama *Dirty Business* investigates one of the biggest potential corporate scandals in British history and *Molly vs The Machines* explores the tragic death of Molly Russell and her father's campaign for greater online safety protections – landing at a moment of heightened public and political attention to online safety and AI governance.

## Entertainment:

Channel 4 remains committed to investing in original British ideas from independent producers across the UK. Our 2026 schedule features bold new factual entertainment and reality programming designed to inform as well as entertain.

Highlights include *Secret Genius*, a heartwarming, returnable series in which Alan Carr and Susie Dent travel the country to uncover extraordinary talents among everyday people; *Handcuffed: Last Pair Standing*, a provocative social experiment led by Jonathan Ross exploring whether enforced proximity can bridge societal divides; *The Hunt: Prey vs Predator*, which challenges ten participants to survive in a remote forest environment, testing primal instincts; and *Apocalypse*, an ambitious format examining human resilience in an end-of-days scenario.

Alongside these new commissions, a tranche of successful returners will be back on screens, including *Virgin Island* – one of the most significant new hits among younger audiences in recent years – alongside *The Piano* and *The Jury: Murder Trial*.

Our schedule will also continue to feature established audience favourites such as *The Great Pottery Throw Down*, *The Great British Bake Off*, *Gogglebox*, and *Taskmaster*, ensuring a balanced mix of innovation and proven success.

Finally, we will continue to serve up the best foreign language drama through our *Walter Presents* strand.



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## Sport:

Channel 4 will continue to deliver a diverse portfolio of free-to-air sports coverage, reinforcing our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. In March 2026, we showcased elite disabled sport through comprehensive coverage of the *Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games*. Additionally, returned to *Crufts*, maintaining our long-standing association with the world's most famous dog show.

Channel 4 will broadcast two other major sporting events for the first time in 2026, further expanding our contribution to the UK's sporting landscape. We will provide live terrestrial coverage of the *Women's FA Cup*, continuing our pivotal role in elevating women's football following the transformative impact of the *2017 Women's European Championships*. From April 2026, Channel 4 will also become the home of *The Boat Race*, airing both the Men's and Women's events. These events are already well-established, and we are committed to delivering distinctive Channel 4 coverage, applying the same innovative approach that transformed our Paralympics broadcasts in 2012.

## Digital:

As a digital-first, youth-focused public service media provider, Channel 4 sees digital platforms such as YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok as essential for reaching the next generation of viewers where they are. We are constantly experimenting and evolving our strategy on these platforms as we learn from what drives engagement with audiences and respond to shifts in how recommendation algorithms operate.

In the coming year, we will continue to test a range of content formats – long-form episodes, mid-form series and short-form vertical video – across multiple genres to serve diverse audience needs. Alongside *UNTOLD*, this will include *A Comedy Thing*, a dedicated YouTube channel designed for online comedy audiences, simultaneously providing a platform for emerging talent. Our recently launched *Channel 4 Served*, will continue to offer quick, accessible recipes that celebrate diverse UK food culture. These initiatives complement our existing portfolio of YouTube channels, including Channel 4 Documentaries, 4 Crime and 4 Emergency, which extend the reach of Channel 4 content to the widest possible audience.

Building on the successful launch of *Untangled* and *A News Thing* in 2025 – both delivering impartial, fact-checked weekly news roundups on YouTube and Spotify – we will continue to explore podcasts as an additional route to engage audiences. Selected flagship programmes will also feature companion podcasts to provide superfans with extended content.



# How relevant services will contribute to overall remit

## Programmes that reflect the lives and concerns of different communities and cultures across the UK

Channel 4 remains committed to our statutory duty to represent unheard voices and reflect the diversity of audiences across the UK. Our programming for the year ahead - across all of our relevant services - is designed to deliver on this vision.

Building on the success of *It's a Sin* - still Channel 4's most-streamed drama - Russell T. Davies returns with *Tip Toe*, a powerful and resonant thriller exploring contemporary LGBTQ+ experiences in Britain.

Through our 4 All the UK commissioning strategy, we will continue to showcase content that represents the breadth of the UK, including Welsh Opera *Fires of the Moon (Tanau'r Lloer)* and a returnable Scottish hotel access series fronted by major talent.

Channel 4 will reaffirm our position as the leading broadcaster for disability representation. In addition to around 65 hours of coverage of the *Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games*, fronted by an all-disabled presenting team, we will examine public attitudes towards disability through a high-profile, yet-to-be-announced stunt. *Patience*, one of our most successful launches of 2025, will return, once again led by autistic protagonist Patience Evans.

Our 2026 slate also includes programming that explores race and ethnicity, such as the landmark documentary *Free Nelson Mandela*, which charts Mandela's journey from activist to revolutionary, prisoner to negotiator, and examines how he led South Africa to democracy from his prison cell. Complementing this are a forthcoming documentary investigating the intersection of the MAGA movement and popular culture, and a docudrama set within the Sikh community.

We are proud to embed diversity within our most popular formats. Upcoming series of *The Great British Bake Off*, *The Great Pottery Throw Down*, and *Gogglebox* will feature casts that authentically reflect the full spectrum of British society.

## Educational programmes for children and young people

Our 2026 slate includes a wide range of programming across our relevant services, designed to reflect the lives of young people and help them navigate and understand the world around them.

The *UNTOLD* strand will continue to spotlight thought-provoking current affairs issues that directly impact younger audiences. In addition, *Molly vs The Machines* will tell the tragic story of a teenager driven to take her own life by social media, exploring the profound effects on her friends and family.

Social media personality Francis Bourgeois will bring his distinctive perspective to a two-part documentary on space travel, while several further projects - yet to be announced - will aim to inform and educate young viewers.

For children, following the success of the BAFTA-nominated hand-drawn animated adaptation of Judith Kerr's classic picture book *Mog's Christmas* in 2023, we have commissioned a seasonal special based on *Mog's Bad Thing*, which follows Mog as she navigates feelings of insecurity at the family's cat show.

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## Range of Independent, Original and Made outside London productions

We will deliver our quotas for original productions, independent productions, made outside London and made outside England programming on Channel 4 Streaming and the main linear channel. We will deliver our news and current affairs quotas on the main linear channel (as these quotas remain linear-only). We will also deliver this type of programming across our other relevant services, above and beyond our quota requirements.

We will collaborate with independent producers across the UK. In addition to a strong line-up of returning titles – such as *Location, Location, Location* from IWC in Scotland, *The Jury: Murder Trial* from Screendog in Brighton, and *Hollyoaks* from Lime in Liverpool – new commissions include a 20-part lifestyle series from Northern Ireland, a police access series from Wales, and Russell T. Davies' *Tip Toe* set and filmed in Manchester from Quay Street Productions. Consistent with our voluntary commitment, we anticipate that 50% of qualifying content investment will be spent in the Nations and Regions.

Underpinning this is our refreshed Nations and Regions strategy, which was announced in October 2024. The strategy aims to harness the creative power of production companies across the UK: expanding investment, supporting industry growth outside London, and ensuring Channel 4 authentically represents viewers from every Nation.

Key commitments include:

- **Increasing investment in the UK Nations:** Channel 4 will raise its commitment by one-third – from 9% to 12% of main channel content spend and hours – in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales, with plans to reach this level by 2028.
- **Leadership appointment:** Jo Street has been appointed as Channel 4's Director of Commissioning, Nations and Regions.
- **Dedicated commissioning roles:** In every Commissioning Genre, a Lead Commissioning Editor for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will focus on nurturing stronger relationships with key suppliers.
- **Partnerships with screen agencies:** We will collaborate with the Nations' screen agencies to develop new, scalable series with strong returning potential.

## Range of genres

Across all of Channel 4's relevant services, we remain committed to our duty to deliver a broad and diverse range of genres. This is a core part of our remit and enables us to provide distinctive content that reflects and responds to the varied needs and interests of our audiences. As part of our digital-first commissioning strategy, we are prioritising investment in genres that perform strongly on streaming platforms – particularly scripted, reality, and premium factual.

However, while advancing this strategy, we will continue to uphold our commitment to content diversity. Our full portfolio will continue to include the genres of sports, entertainment, news and current affairs, drama, soaps, factual, films, and comedy.

## Film

Channel 4 takes our duty to develop, co-finance and broadcast high-quality films seriously. We do this through our film production division, Film4, which champions innovation, risk, and diversity in British and international filmmaking, by backing world-class talent and creating a platform for distinctive new voices. In 2026 we have projects from debut filmmakers including Jonathan Schey (*Everybody Wants To F\*\*k Me*), Alice Birch (*Sweetsick*), Ashley Walters (*Animol*), Rafael Manuel (*Filipiñana*), Olive Nwosu (*Lady*) and Molly Manners (*Extra Geography*); plus new films from established directors such as Mark Jenkin (*Rose of Nevada*), Martin McDonagh (*Wild Horse Nine*) and Andrew Haigh (*A Long Winter*).



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## **Condition 1: whether the IPS makes/is capable of making a significant contribution to the PSB’s individual remit**

All of the content on the relevant services identified in this Combined Plan will be included in Channel 4 Streaming (our proposed designated IPS).

## **Condition 2: whether the public service remit (PSR) content included in the IPS is readily discoverable and promoted by the IPS**

Principles for Prominence and Discoverability of PSR Content on Channel 4 Streaming:

### **1. Prominence and Discoverability for “Priority PSR Content”**

The Media Act defines ‘PSR content’ as programming that contributes to a PSB’s remit. All of our content contributes to our remit – whether through original UK content or well-chosen acquisitions – albeit to varying degrees. We acknowledge that this contribution exists on a spectrum, with different programmes supporting the remit in diverse ways – whether through format, subject matter, or talent. As part of Channel 4’s Fast Forward strategy to become Britain’s first public service streamer, we are evolving our commissioning strategy to focus on content that thrives in a digital-first world, while having a clear public purpose.

To demonstrate compliance with Condition 2 of the IPS designation criteria, we apply an editorial approach that highlights a priority tier of PSR content – titles that, based on ongoing editorial assessment, we consider most powerfully deliver our remit.

This is not a formal categorisation of PSR content into ‘priority’ and ‘non-priority’; rather, it reflects a dynamic, ongoing editorial judgment about which titles most strongly fulfil our remit at any given time. This is the type of content that most needs to be made prominent and discoverable on Channel 4 Streaming, to ensure that audiences can access it and benefit from the value it offers.

### **2. Strategic Placement of Priority PSR Content in High-Traffic Areas**

Priority PSR content will be prominently positioned in areas of the player that attract the most user engagement, including:

- Hero banner and top editorial rail will spotlight priority PSR content – highlighting new and significant content or marking key cultural moments (e.g. Paralympics, News bulletins).
- Homepage rails such as “Documentaries” (based on genre or programme features) or “New” (highlighting fresh content) - will be carefully curated to foreground priority PSR content.
- Curated category tabs will include dedicated spaces for different genres/sub-genres, programme features and recently added content (e.g. Documentaries, Entertainment, Audio-Described) that support discoverability of priority PSR content.
- Themed campaigns with dedicated rails around topics aligned with Channel 4’s remit (e.g. LGBTQ+ History Month, Black History Month and South Asian Heritage Month).

### **3. Diverse Range of PSR Content**

We will strive for audiences to be exposed to a wide breadth of the content we commission, so we can meet the diverse needs and interests of as many people as possible. When deciding which priority PSR content to promote – including through the methods outlined above – Channel 4 will ensure that a broad range of this programming is consistently showcased across Channel 4 Streaming. This includes priority PSR content spanning different genres, topics, and formats that inform, educate, and entertain.



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## 4. Editorial and Algorithmic Curation with Remit Objectives

Curation of Channel 4 Streaming will be editorially led and algorithmically supported to ensure priority PSR content is promoted in high-traffic areas. For example, editorial teams will select priority PSR content guaranteed to be surfaced within the hero banner and homepage rails, ensuring maximum exposure to audiences.

## 5. Dedicated Promotion of News and Current Affairs

Channel 4 will ensure that news and current affairs content (as priority PSR content) is consistently and prominently featured across the streaming platform to ensure audiences can easily find and watch it. For example, this may include:

- Hero banner and top editorial rail featuring live broadcast promotions of flagship Channel 4 News programme and Breaking News.
- Dedicated homepage rails for News and Current Affairs (e.g. “Channel 4 In-Depth” and our digital-first youth current affairs strand *UNTOLD*) that highlight recent important content.
- Pop-up curations to spotlight news and current affairs content aligned with major national or global events (e.g. Spotlight on Israel-Gaza, Refugee Week).
- User engagement driven rails (e.g. “People Are Talking About”) will often feature Channel 4 News.
- Dedicated category tab for News and Current Affairs with sub-genres to aid discoverability.

## 6. Third-party content

Programming from third parties may be included on Channel 4 Streaming as part of commercial carriage agreements. These arrangements help broaden the appeal and reach of the service to diverse audiences and strengthen its overall competitiveness.

This content is always additive, and Channel 4 Streaming will continue to showcase the full range of Channel 4-commissioned content that underpins our public service remit.

Applying the principles outlined above will ensure that the inclusion of third-party content on Channel 4 Streaming does not adversely affect the prominence and discoverability of PSR content.

## 7. Transparency and Accountability

Channel 4 will publish these principles in our annual Combined Plan, updating them as necessary to better serve audiences and to reflect the evolution of our streaming editorial strategy and technology capabilities. We will report on how we have applied these principles in our annual Combined Review.



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Channel 4 is strongly committed to accessibility and making our programmes accessible to all audiences, regardless of disability or technology. As well as fulfilling all of our statutory requirements in this area, this inclusive aim also closely links to our remit goals of representing and amplifying unheard voices and authentically representing viewers from all of the UK.

In terms of access services volumes, we will continue to meet our voluntary commitments: subtitling all of our six channels and offering audio-description on 45% of five of our channels (with E4 Extra meeting its statutory requirement). 10% of the Channel 4 and E4 schedules will be made up of programmes translated into British Sign Language.

We will continue to enhance our biggest and best-loved shows with access services, including popular returning programmes like *The Great British Bake Off* and *The Great Pottery Throw Down*, cutting-edge investigations and documentaries via our *Dispatches* and *UNTOLD* strands, as well as new titles and commissions.

2026 will see us strive for more of our biggest shows to be made accessible in real time, including live audio description and simultaneous availability of signed versions, with the *Milano Cortina Winter Paralympic Games* in March and other events in the sporting calendar providing opportunities to demonstrate this. This provision extends to being prepared to provide accessible means of viewing for unscheduled emergency broadcasts.

We will continue to explore ways of enhancing our programmes in production, such as descriptive voiceover, and we are also working to improve the accessibility of our other on-air content, including promos and commercials.

In 2026, we will continue our close partnership with LumoTV<sup>3</sup> both from our financial contribution and our weekly programme slot on Film4. For the first time, the programme will be hosted on our streaming service for a catch-up window, which we hope will boost the shows' reach among its target audience as well as increasing awareness of the brand more generally.

On streaming, we will maintain and grow our volumes of accessible programming: all programmes have subtitles and over 45% of our catalogue has audio description on the platforms where those services are supported. This includes catch-up shows from our linear channels, box set releases, acquired titles, and the newly launched U service on Channel 4 Streaming. We are also growing our collection of signed Channel 4 programmes on streaming.

From a digital accessibility perspective, our planned streaming transformation project will see investment in accessibility audits as well as improvements to the user interface and content navigability across our suite of platforms. These improvements are intended to remove digital barriers, ensuring we maximise the audiences who can engage with our content, including those who use assistive technologies.

Finally, our 4Skills programme has also shone a spotlight on access services in recent years with an internship scheme in partnership with Red Bee Media, which is planned to continue in 2026, with roles as a subtitler, audio description scripter, and sign language assistant. This collaboration links our innovative nationwide training and development initiative with our longstanding commitment to accessibility.

<sup>3</sup>LumoTV, formerly the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust, commissions television programmes that highlight the deaf and sign language communities.



# Media Literacy

As the first public service streamer, Channel 4 understands the importance of empowering audiences with the skills to navigate digital environments and engage with and understand content online.

Through this work, Channel 4 supports its public service remit by helping audiences – particularly younger viewers – navigate digital media environments with greater confidence, critical awareness and understanding of trusted sources. This builds democratic participation and reinforces trust in public service media in an increasingly complex digital environment.

Our initiatives include maintaining focus on our innovative Channel 4 News delivery on digital platforms which allows us to reach with younger audiences with high-quality, trusted and accurate news. Reaching these audiences is a priority as **our research** shows that Gen Z faces growing uncertainty with trusting traditional news sources.

We will also continue to promote media literacy through programming that addresses themes such as technology and media, encouraging audiences to engage critically with these issues. As part of this commitment, we will broadcast a landmark documentary series on the evolution of artificial intelligence, featuring leading voices including Geoffrey Hinton ('the godfather of A.I.') and Demis Hassabis (founder of DeepMind). In addition, Grayson Perry's latest travelogue will take viewers to the heart of Silicon Valley, offering unique cultural insights. We will also examine the influence of technology corporations through an intimate account of personal loss linked to social media.

In addition, 4Schools, our schools' engagement initiative, promotes media literacy by giving students hands-on insight into how media is created through workshops, assemblies, and Q&A sessions with industry professionals. It provides curriculum-linked resources and interactive activities that help students understand media processes, think critically about content, and explore creative careers - turning them from passive consumers into informed, active participants in the media landscape.

Finally, Channel 4 will continue to be a supporter of Media Smart. Media Smart is the advertising and media industry's award-winning education non-profit with a mission to ensure that every 7-21-year-old in the UK can confidently navigate the media they consume including being able to identify, interpret and critically evaluate all forms of advertising. The programme provides free educational resources for teachers, schools, parents/guardians, and digital campaigns direct to its youth audience. Subjects include social media, digital advertising, political advertising, scam ads, greenwashing, body image, influencer marketing, creative careers and piracy which are delivered in the classroom, assembly, youth club or at home.

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Overall plans for the following year

How relevant services will contribute to overall remit

IPS Designation

Accessibility

Media Literacy

Other reporting requirements



# Other reporting requirements

## Commissioning

Channel 4 has in place a Commissioning Code of Practice which can be accessed [here](#). We are currently updating this document to reflect Ofcom's latest **guidance**, with an updated version to be published in the summer.

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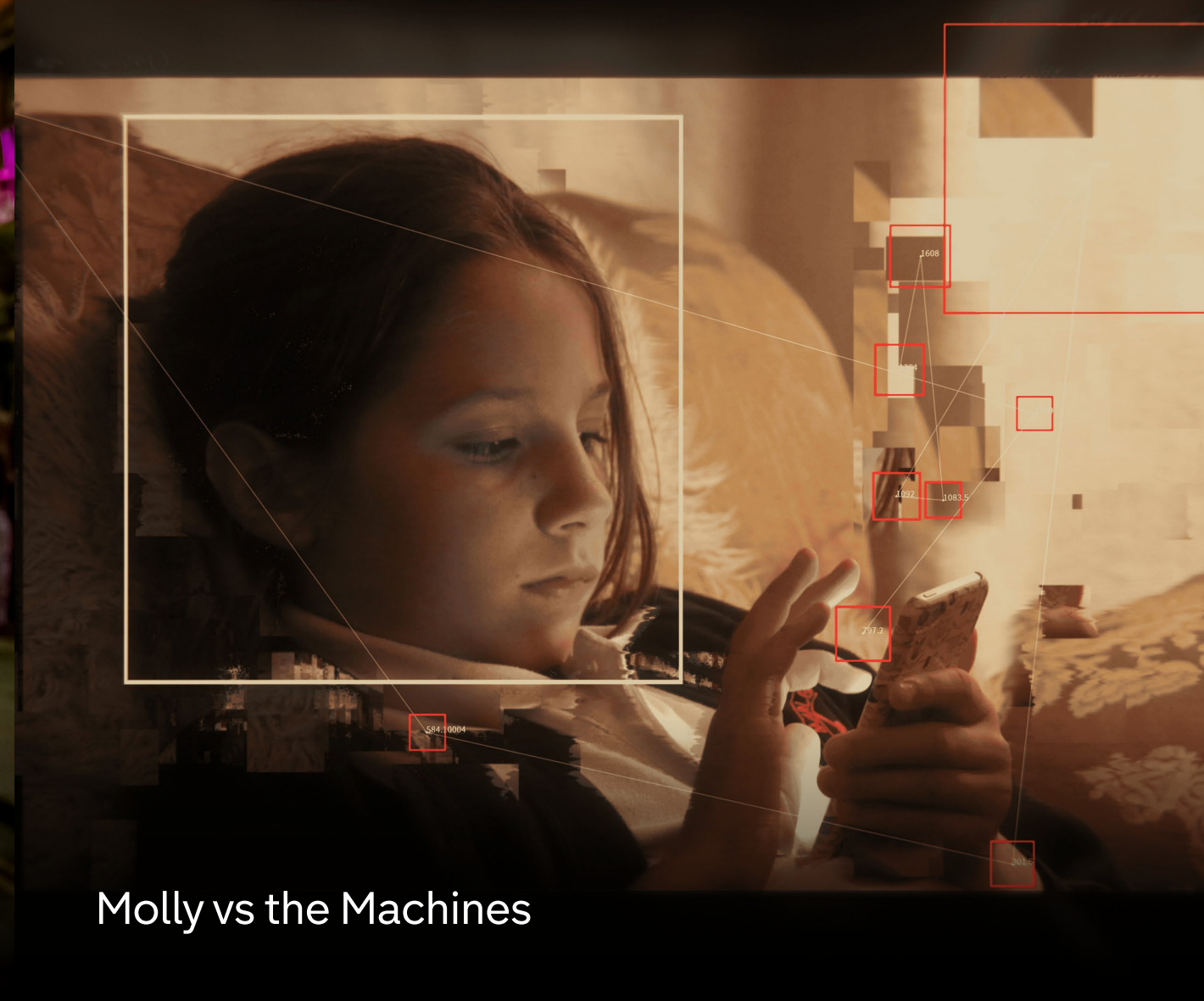
Other reporting requirements



Virgin Island



Tip Toe



Molly vs the Machines



Dirty Business



Falling



Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympic Games



Rose of Nevada



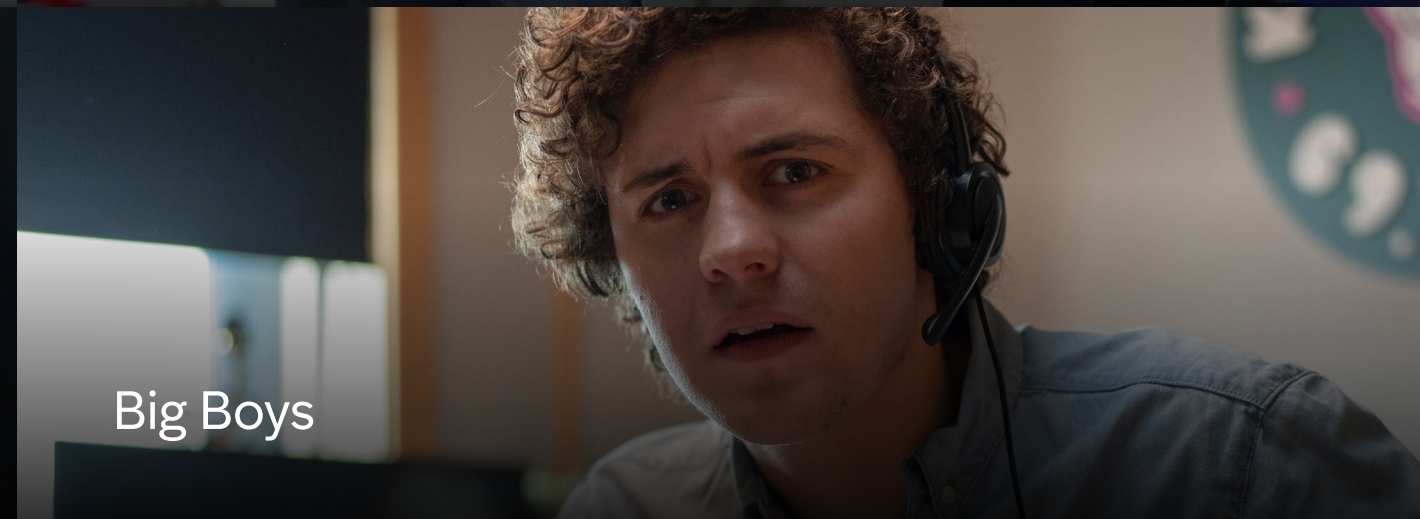
The Great British Bake Off



The Jury: Murder Trial



Made in Chelsea



Big Boys



Gogglebox