



**Voice of the
Listener & Viewer**

**The Draft Media Bill Provisions
VLV Briefing
June 2023**



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Stated Purpose of the Bill

‘to reform the legal framework for the regulation of PSB and radio in the UK, to enable UK public service broadcasters ...and UK radio to thrive in the long-term. The Bill will mean audiences can more easily access and enjoy quality, British-originated content and it will help to maintain a strong and diverse British broadcasting ecology.’

**Memorandum from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport
to the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee**



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Key provisions in the draft Bill

- Prominence for PSB content on hardware
- SVOD content regulation
- Support for those with disabilities to access content on SVOD platforms
- The PSB Remit is revised
- Allows Secretary of State to set new quotas for PSB content if it is not provided
- Channel 4 is allowed to produce programmes in-house
- Channel 4 has a new duty to ensure its financial sustainability
- Allows the PSBs to deliver their remits with online content, not just linear programming
- Regulation of smart speaker platforms to ensure access to all licensed UK radio stations
- Local non-news content no longer required by commercial radio stations
- Listed events will have to be broadcast on a PSB service and free to air

Content which the Bill requires from the Public Service Broadcasters

- News and current affairs
- Content which reflects the lives, concerns and cultural interests of the UK population
- Original content
- Content for children and young people
- Content made by a combination of broadcasters and independent producers
- Content from outside the M25



VLV concerns

- The Bill reduces the burden on the PSBs but will it ensure delivery of what is considered traditional public service content? Is this a missed opportunity to support such content?
- The definition of ‘appropriate prominence’ for PSB content on hardware is too loose
- Streaming video on demand (SVOD) content regulation should apply to online audio as well
- The definition of ‘news’ in the Communications Act should be updated
- The removal of ‘at risk’ genres from the PSB Remit is a worry
- Channel 4 innovation may be lost because it is under pressure to be more commercial
- Listed events regime needs to apply to time shifted content on digital platforms