

BBC Scotland News and Current Affairs

1. BBC Scotland News and Current Affairs Hours: Statistics

Television

In 2010/11, BBC Scotland broadcast 513 hours of televised news and current affairs on BBC One/BBC Two Scotland. This compares with 504 hours in 09/10; 504 hours in 08/09; 480 hours in 07/08 and 491 hours in 06/07.

In addition, 185 hours of news were broadcast on BBC ALBA in the past year (30% of a total of 616 hours of originated programmes i.e. not repeats).

BBC Scotland also regularly contributes to BBC network News output, across television, radio and online and the recommendations of the *King Report* have resulted in significant increases in collaboration and consultation between BBC News and the BBC News operations across the Nations and Regions of the UK.

Radio

On radio, there has been a similar pattern of increased news hours over the past five years. In 2010/11, Radio Scotland broadcast 3301 hours of news and current affairs. That compares with 3219 hours in 09/10; 3155 in 08/09; 2929 in 07/08 and 2632 in 06/07.

On Radio nan Gaidheal, news hours amounted to 654 in 2010/11; 659 hours in 09/10; 626 hours in 08/09; 640 hours in 07/08 and 633 hours in 06/07.

Online

BBC Scotland's Online news content attracts 2.56m UK Unique Browsers per week (average based on the period weeks 35-52, 2011 – a new reporting system was launched in September 2011). Figures reached a new record of 4.26m unique users in the week of the December storm (8/12/11).

BBC Scotland Investigates

BBC Scotland's Investigations Team offers the only broadcast investigative programming in Scotland and continues to develop and extend the range of issues with which it deals.

In the past year BBC Scotland produced 19 separate (30 and 60 minute) televised Investigations programmes for Scotland and three network *Panoramas*.

Subjects covered within our televised Investigations output included *Who Needs Trident?*, *Bombs, Bigotry and Football*, *Scotland's Property Scandal*, *The Great Tram Disaster*, *Portillo on Scotland* and *Rangers: the Inside Story*.

Smoking and the Bandits (see below) originated as a *BBC Scotland Investigates* programme, attracting a Scotland audience of 490,000 and a 25% audience share; *Rangers: the Inside Story* drew almost identical figures (497,000 and a 25% audience share).

The three UK network *Panorama* programmes covered subjects as diverse as fake cigarettes (*Smoking and the Bandits*), the quality of surgical instruments being used in the UK (*Surgery's Dirty Secrets*) and the multi-million pound UK black market in fuel (*The Great Fuel Robbery*).

Smoking and the Bandits attracted a UK audience of 3.1million viewers (11.8% share), *Surgery's Dirty Secrets* drew 2.2m viewers and 8.9% share and *The Great Fuel Robbery* attracted 3.5 million viewers and 13.1% share.

Local output

Local communities and local government remain integral to the BBC's radio news output and coverage has been strengthened by the introduction of the weekday 5.30am *Morning Briefing* programme.

A regional round-up has recently been introduced to the main *Reporting Scotland* bulletin. This serves to augment the local coverage currently afforded, for example, via the radio opts (Orkney, Shetland, Inverness, Aberdeen, Selkirk & Dumfries) and the online Scotland news pages.

2. Election coverage

The Scottish Parliament Election coverage in May 2011 included four pre-election televised debates, including a Leaders' Debate, on BBC One Scotland. The four debates reached 780,000 viewers. On-the-night coverage of the results as they came in reached 550,000 viewers.

Online, 2 million UK unique users came to the Scotland News site in the week of the election, generating 8.5 million page impressions, with 3 million page impression generated alone on the day following the election (Friday 6 May 2011). Across the 5th and 6th May, BBC Scotland provided 17 hours of live TV election output, 17 hours live radio output and constant updates online.

In advance of – and prior to reporting of - the election, News editors from across the BBC came to Edinburgh to meet MSPs to ensure better understanding of devolved issues.

3. Audiences

The combined weekly reach of all BBC Scotland TV bulletins increased from 51% (2009/10) to 54% (2.24m of those 16 yrs+) in 2010/11.

The average audience for *Reporting Scotland* in 2011 was 530,000. The Ofcom *Communications Market Report 2011* indicates that it remains the most watched news programme in Scotland, attracting a 29% share of viewing – the same as the UK average.

Audiences for *Reporting Scotland* continued to rise and the severe weather, in December 2010 and again in December 2011 and in January 2012, produced some of the highest viewing figures for the programme in a decade. On January 3, 2012, the lunchtime edition of *Reporting Scotland* attracted its highest audience (583,000) since (at least) 2001 and the 6.30pm edition attracted its second highest audience (901,000) over the same period.

On the same day, BBC Radio Scotland attracted twice the normal number of daily UK iPlayer requests. And traffic to News Scotland Online was well above average, with over a million UK Unique Browsers on the day.

On Radio Scotland, in 2011, *Good Morning Scotland* had an average weekly reach of around 460,000 listeners and programmes such as *Brian Taylor's Big Debate* and *Call Kaye* continue to prove very popular with listeners. News and current affairs output on the station has a weekly reach of around 670,000 listeners.

4. Delivering Quality First

The BBC's Delivering Quality First (DQF) initiative is both a response to the current Licence Fee settlement (frozen until 2017) and a strategic approach to remodelling the organisation to ensure it is able to respond to the requirements of digital broadcasting.

Financially, the overall impact of a 16% reduction in budget will impact on BBC Scotland as it will on all other parts of the BBC. In Scotland, £16m will come off of our annual local budget (of £102m) by 2017. This, we envisage, will result in the loss of around 100 – 120 posts by that time.

In News, in Scotland, the impact will be as set out below:

- Quality will not suffer, nor will overall hours.
- Radio Scotland's *Newsweek* programme (Saturdays, 1x60') will be replaced by a 1 x 120' programme.
- *Scotland at Ten* (which runs 3 x 30' + a repeat of First Minister's Questions) will stop in the current run.
- On the above, FMQs are available on the BBC Democracy Live website, live on Radio Scotland (and on-demand on the BBC Radio Player and on the BBC iPlayer) and live & repeated (3 to 4 times) on BBC Parliament. FMQs are also live on BBC Two Scotland TV.
- A new radio current affairs programme will be introduced on Saturday mornings on Radio Scotland (in addition to the *Newsweek* replacement) – this is currently in planning.
- There will be more regular daily politics slots within the daily News and Current Affairs (NCA) radio output (which currently sits at 7 hours+ per day on average).
- We will be looking at changes to our party conference coverage as part of overall savings requirements.
- On staff, as result of changes at *Scotland at Ten*, 2 posts will be lost as will 1 further News production post in Edinburgh.
- In Glasgow, 8 posts lost in News radio production amongst broadcast journalist/senior broadcast journalist categories. In total, we envisage that around 30 News posts will be lost over the next 5 years, out of c. 240 workforce in that area.
- As part of this change, staff will be required to work across NCA output rather than, as present, dedicated to particular programmes (in line with the rest of BBC) – this will offer greater flexibility in how we use our staff resources.
- There will no cuts in our local radio content or in staff.

- We will, where possible and appropriate, look to voluntary redundancies and to redeployment of staff, with the interests of audiences maintaining precedence.

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