

BBC FACTS AND FIGURES

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is the publicly funded media service of the United Kingdom. The Corporation comprises 8 UK-wide Television Channels, 10 UK-wide Radio Stations and a network of more local television and radio stations throughout the UK. It also has a raft of International Interests and Commercial Enterprises.

The BBC is funded by public subscription in the form of a Licence Fee and licence payers paid £2,658 million in fees in the latest audited financial year (2002-2003) making the BBC the most extensive and best funded Public Service Broadcaster in the world.

This Report, taken from the BBC's own latest Annual Report and Accounts, highlights BBC Services available in the various parts of the United Kingdom i.e. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Report has been kept brief and concise and covers such subjects as income, expenditure, location of services, the number of hours broadcast and costs.

United Kingdom Population - 2001 Census Results

UK Total	58,789,194	100 %
England	49,138,831	83.58 %
Scotland	5,062,011	8.61 %
Wales	2,903,085	4.94 %
N. Ireland	1,685,267	2.87 %

BBC Income

As touched upon in the introduction, the BBC received over **£2.65 billion** in licence fees for the financial year 2002-2003. Added to its other income, such as commercial sales of programmes, merchandising, Open University payments and EU Grants, the Corporation had a total income of over **£2.68 billion**.

All other costs aside, such as transmission, maintenance and insurance, the BBC was left with a Spend of **£2.37 billion** specifically for programme making for Television and Radio.

BBC Scotland (Television and Radio), received core funding for that year of **£87.5** million, **core** funding being its allocation for the production of television and radio programmes for its Scottish audience. This BBC Scotland core funding equated to only 3.7 % of the BBC's entire programme making budget.

That Scotland with 8.6% of the UK population should receive only 3.7 % of the BBC's programme making expenditure for Scottish programming only allows BBC Scotland to provide something akin to a skeleton media service for its Scottish audience.

BBC Scotland also managed to achieve a total of £66.3 million in commissions to produce television and radio programmes for the BBC's UK network. However, this is **not** core funding for a Scottish audience and **cannot** be used to provide specifically Scottish interest programmes. BBC Bristol and others receive similar funding and BBC Scotland's share of this UK network Spend is a mere 2.7 % of the Corporation's total programme making budget.

If Scotland accounts for 8.6 % of the UK population and pays approximately 8.6 % of the BBC's income, BBC Scotland's expenditure should therefore be nearer the £240 million per year that the people of Scotland pay in licence fees etc.

For the BBC to allocate additional resources to BBC Scotland; not to produce programmes for its domestic Scottish audience but to produce programmes for an English or UK wide audience, distorts the facts and appears more designed to conceal and disguise the Corporation's acute underfunding of **core** Scottish programming.

Infrastructure

The BBC has **eight** Television Channels and **ten** Radio Stations broadcasting UK wide. All of these are based in London with very little, or in most cases no, Scottish output. London and the south-east of England accounted for 69 per cent of all BBC output in 2002-2003, with the other English regions accounting for most of the rest.

These ten Radio Stations broadcasted **63,740** hours of programmes between them in 2002-2003. Only four of the ten broadcast programmes that had originated in Scotland and the other six had no Scottish output at all. The Scottish output from these ten Stations was minuscule in comparison to their total hours of broadcasting i.e. **779** hours from a total of **63,740** hours (**1.2%**).

Network Radio Hours of Output (2002-2003)

Radio station	Hours	Scottish Output
BBC Radio1	9,021	89
BBC Radio2	8,760	124
BBC Radio3	8,760	404
BBC Radio 4	8,013	162
BBC Five Live	8,760	0
Five Live Sports Extra	1,320	0
Ixtra	5,454	0
BBC 6 Music	8,760	0
BBC Radio7	1,911	0
Asian Network	2,981	0
Total	63,740	779 (1.2%)

This London and south east of England bias at the BBC in its network radio broadcasts is replicated in the Corporation's network television broadcasting, as the following tables show.

Network Television Hours of Output by Origination (2002-2003)

First Transmissions	Hours	% share
London/south east	20,904	91.26%
Other English Regions	1,222	5.33%
England (Total)	22,126	96.60%
Scotland	466	2.03%
Wales	187	0.82%
Northern Ireland	127	0.55%
Sub Total	22,906	100%

Repeats	Hours	% share
London/south-east	19,663	81.93%
Other English regions	2,650	11.04%
England (Total)	22,313	92.97%
Scotland	815	3.40%
Wales	578	2.41%
Northern Ireland	293	1.22%

Sub Total	23,999	100%
Totals (first transmissions and repeats)	Hours	% share
London/south-east	40,567	86.49%
Other English regions	3,872	8.25%
England (Total)	44,439	94.74%
Scotland	1,281	2.73%
Wales	765	1.63%
Northern Ireland	420	0.90%
Total	46,905	100%

As can be seen from the above figures, only 2.03% of new network television programmes were produced in Scotland with 3.4% of the Corporation's network repeats coming from Scotland. In effect, of the total 1,281 hours of networked programmes from Scotland over 36% of them were repeats, with little or no production costs.

BBC Scotland Television

The BBC might argue that BBC Scotland is designed to overcome this London bias in programme making. However, as already stated, BBC Scotland's **core** budget is only 3.7 % of the BBC's entire programme making budget which is simply insufficient to produce anything more than a skeleton Scottish service.

The vast majority of the output of BBC Scotland Television originates from London and the south east and the other English Regions. BBC Scotland productions on BBC Scotland Television remain few and far between.

In Scotland, BBC One and BBC Two broadcast **16,921** hours of television programmes between them in 2002-2003. However only **997** hours of these were new, *core* BBC Scotland programmes designed for a Scottish audience.

BBC Scotland's entire Television output, that is, its core programmes, its Network commissions, and its repeated programmes for the year 2002-2003 numbered 2,269 hours from a total of 53,788. That is, 4.2% of the BBC's total Output, as the table below shows:

Total Hours of Television Broadcasts by Origination

Hours	% Share
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London/south-east	41,954	78.00%
Other English regions	7,261	13.50%
England (Total)	49,215	91.50%
Scotland	2,269	4.22%
Wales	1,160	2.16%
Northern Ireland	1,144	2.13%
Total	53,788	100%

BBC Radio Scotland

Similarly, BBC Radio Scotland is something of part-time service. It concludes each evening at midnight, carries a number of repeated programmes and broadcast for only 6,029 hours in 2002-2003, according to BBC Scotland's Annual Report for that year.

Radio Scotland/nan Gaidheal/Community Radio together broadcast for only 9,267 hours for the year, according to BBC Scotland's Annual Report, or, 10,620 hours, according to the BBC's UK Report. *

Either way, such a limited service is grossly inadequate for a national community of over 5 million people. This London and south east of England bias at the BBC not only in its network broadcasting but on BBC Scotland television has no place in a fair and equitable society and certainly not in today's age of advanced technology.

** There are a number of discrepancies in the BBC UK Report as well as between the UK and Scottish Reports.*

BBC Local Radio in England

The limited output of BBC Radio Scotland is in direct contrast to the 38 or so local BBC Radio Stations in England, many of which broadcast more numerous hours than BBC Radio Scotland and all of which broadcast a total of over 222,000 hours in 2002-2003. This is over and above the 63,740 hours per year broadcast by the BBC from London.

That BBC Radio Scotland serving a national community of over 5 million people broadcasts fewer hours per year than local BBC Radio Stations in England, such as BBC Three Counties Radio (with a catchment area similar to that of Glasgow) and BBC Wiltshire (with a catchment area similar to that of Edinburgh) shows the lack of regard given Scotland by the BBC. It goes against the notion that the BBC caters for a Scottish national community.

Most local BBC Radio Stations in England commence broadcasting at 5 am until 1 am. BBC Radio Scotland commences at 6 am and concludes at midnight. BBC Radio London broadcasts 24 hours.

Everything considered, that is, all Radio broadcasts from London, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the 38 local radio Stations in England, the BBC broadcast in excess of **320,000** hours of radio programmes in 2002-2003. BBC Radio Scotland's accounted for a mere **3%** of that.

Again, were all things equal, with 8.6 % of the UK population and paying approximately 8.6% of BBC Licence Fees, Scotland, via BBC Radio Scotland/nan Gaidheal, should be broadcasting nearer 30,000 hours of radio per year rather than the one third of that figure that currently prevails.

Note: The above information and following table is taken from the BBC's Annual Report and Accounts for 2002-2003. However, since then, the BBC has increased its number of local Radio Stations in England to 40 and one can safely assume that the number of hours of Output from BBC local radio in England has increased from the stated 222,849.

English BBC local Radio Output

According to the BBC's 2002-2003 Report and Accounts, there were 38 local BBC Radio Stations in England. These range from BBC Radio London with an adult catchment area of over 10 million to BBC Radio Guernsey with a catchment area of 50,000. See below:

Station	population (1000's)	15+ Hours of Broadcasting per Year
BBC London	10,384	8,736
BBC Southern Counties	2,383	8,460
BBC WM	2,770	8,816
BBC Bristol	1,238	7,555
BBC Wiltshire Sound	498	7,287
BBC Three Counties	958	6,895
Radio		
BBC GMR	2,081	6,871
BBC Nottingham	736	6,708
BBC Solent	1,659	6,684
BBC Newcastle	1,361	6,450
BBC Norfolk	683	6,430
BBC Leeds	1,506	6,406
BBC Cambridgeshire	612	6,373
BBC Devon	916	6,327
BBC Kent	1,293	6,281
BBC Merseyside	1,623	6,178
BBC Berkshire	794	3,714
BBC Cleveland	794	5,302
BBC Cumbria	384	5,853
BBC Lancashire	1,134	5,785
BBC Sheffield	1,227	5,875
BBC Derby	588	5,127
BBC Essex	1,173	5,522
BBC Northampton	440	5,004
BBC York	467	6,249
BBC Gloucestershire	464	5,175
BBC Hereford & Worcester	492	5,192
BBC Humberside	729	5,786
BBC Lincolnshire	490	5,263
BBC Oxford	504	5,497
BBC Leicester	760	5,223
BBC Stoke	603	5,144
BBC Suffolk	422	5,113
BBC Cornwall	416	5,735
BBC Shropshire	361	5,306
BBC Jersey	74	4,294
BBC Guernsey	50	4,231
Total for all 38 Stations		222,849 hours

BBC Radio Scotland Output

	population 1000's	15+	Hours Broadcasting	of
BBC Radio Scotland (incl. Orkney and Shetland)	4,190		6,029	
Radio nan Gaidheal Community Radio	4,190		2,616 622	
Total			9,267	

UK network radio broadcasting aside, Scotland has a population equivalent to 10.5% that of England. One would therefore assume that BBC Radio Scotland should be broadcasting approximately 10.5% of the radio hours that the BBC English Regions broadcast. Indeed, given Scotland's national status, one would think that BBC Scotland would be broadcasting more hours per head than the average English Region or County. However, as the tables above and below show, BBC Radio in Scotland broadcast only 3.9 % of what is broadcast in England.

Total Local Radio Broadcasting	Hours	% Share
England (local)	222,849	96.01%
Scotland (local)	9,267	3.99%
Total	232,116	100%

One must question the BBC's allocation of funding and the number of broadcasting hours that that inevitably determines.

As well as national services for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the BBC has eleven regional television services in England. These regional channels produce their own local programmes as well as commissions for the BBC network. They are:

BBC North	BBC West
BBC North West	BBC South
BBC North-East and Cumbria	BBC South East

BBC West Midlands
 BBC East Midlands
 BBC East

BBC South West
 BBC London

With the two exceptions of London and the South East, these BBC English regions have similar, or indeed smaller, populations to that of Scotland. Obviously if Scotland has a population of 10.5 % that of England, then dividing England into eleven regions makes many of those regions smaller in population to that of Scotland.

However, this "similarity" in population is where the similarity ends. Unlike in Scotland, each of these English regions has a number of local BBC radio stations (see also page 6)

The West Midlands region has five. East Midlands region has four. BBC West region has six. BBC East region also has six. The North region has four. The South East and South West regions each have two, The North West three and the North East and Cumbria region four, as the following table illustrates:

BBC Television Regions in England	Number of BBC Radio Stations	Hours Per Year
BBC North	4 BBC local radio stations	24,316
BBC North West	3 BBC local radio stations	18,384
BBC North East & Cumbria	3 BBC local radio stations	17,537
BBC West Midlands	5 BBC local radio stations	24,458
BBC East Midlands	4 BBC local radio stations	22,321
BBC East	6 BBC local radio stations	30,224
BBC West *	5 BBC local radio stations	20,017 *
BBC South	3 BBC local radio stations	15,895
BBC South East	2 BBC local radio stations	14,741
BBC South West	4 BBC local radio stations	20,587
BBC Scotland	Radio Scotland/nan Gaidheal	9,267

As the above figures show, BBC local radio broadcasting hours in Scotland is paltry in comparison to the individual English regions despite Scotland having a larger population than most of them.

The BBC does not publish the population statistics for its **eleven** English regions, but the 2001 census does publish results for an England comprising **nine** regions

and even when taking these larger regions from the census results, Scotland still has a larger or similar population to most of them.

That a Scotland of over 5 million people can have only 9,267 of local BBC radio broadcasting hours per year while the BBC provides anything between 14,000 to 30,000 hours of local broadcasting for individual English regions defies belief and is nothing short of a national scandal.

Not only is Scotland being short-changed by the BBC in its London-based UK Networks, Scotland is also being very much underprovided for in the Corporation's local services, and most notably radio provision.

Broadcasting Costs

Finally, this overall London/English bias at the BBC is not in the best interest of the licence payer with London and the South-East of England being the most costly place to produce and broadcast programmes in the UK. The BBC produced 69 % of all its radio and television programmes in London and the South-East in 2002-2003.

Costs per Hour of Originated Programmes.

Television

BBC One (<i>from London</i>)	£160,000 per hour
BBC Two (<i>from London</i>)	£108,000 per hour
Nations and Regions	£ 31,000 per hour

Radio

BBC Radio1	£ 2,700 per hour
BBC Radio2	£ 4,200 per hour
BBC Radio3	£ 4,000 per hour
BBC Radio4	£11,000 per hour
BBC Five Live	£ 7,900 per hour
Nations and Regions	£ 500 per hour

As can be seen from the costs above, not only is it culturally and economically disadvantageous to the Nations and other regions of the UK that 69 % of the BBC's output originates from London and the south-east, it also doesn't make economic sense for the BBC and the licence payer.

By its own admission, the BBC accepts and acknowledges that these programmes can be produced so much less expensively elsewhere. The above figures, again taken from the BBC's own Report, shows just how much less expensively they can be produced outwith London and the south-east of England.

In conclusion:

We are all aware of the many cultural and economic benefits that a vibrant and thriving media can produce with the many quality jobs, training and opportunities that that entails. However, due to the present underfunding of BBC Scotland, many of those benefits are limited or simply denied to the people of Scotland and the few that we do have are completely reliant on the decisions and whims of others. Those benefits are very much concentrated in London and the south-east of England, with the other English regions taking a lion's share of the little that remains.

Scotland having 25-30,000 hours of BBC radio broadcasting, which would be more proportionate to the service currently available in the English regions, could mean the creation of other national and/or local BBC Scotland services.

This would not only produce a much more diverse service for the Scottish licence payer with an inevitable increase in jobs and opportunities but would end the

national travesty and embarrassment of Scotland having only one national BBC Radio station trying to be all things to all men and all women and all age groups.

Having a more abundant and diverse BBC Scotland service would be entirely inkeeping with the situation in similarly sized and smaller neighbouring countries where they have a more extensive service from their Public Service Broadcaster. For example, RTE, the Public Service Broadcaster in the Republic of Ireland, has two television networks and four national radio stations, despite the licence fee being similar to that of Scotland and the UK. RTE also broadcasts an Irish Gaelic language channel, separately funded by the Government. The Republic of Ireland has a smaller population than Scotland.

Indeed, a number of “regions” in some neighbouring countries already enjoy a greater service from their respective PSB. Again, for example, the Flemish Community in Belgium also has two television networks and four national radio stations, despite Flanders having a similar population to that of Scotland.

However, one need only look at the situation in the individual BBC English Regions for such an example (see page 8).

Of course BBC Scotland is a “national” service broadcasting to a national community with their own national institutions and culture and as such is supposed to have a more national funding arrangement. However, everything considered, i.e. radio and television, that is manifestly not the case when taking all BBC local, regional and national services into consideration. The BBC’s own facts and figures speak for themselves.

1) How can the BBC justify giving BBC Scotland (radio and television) only 3.7% of its entire programme making budget to produce core programmes for its Scottish audience?

2) How can the BBC justify BBC Scotland television broadcasting only 997 hours of new core Scottish programmes from a combined BBC One Scotland and BBC Two Scotland output of almost 17,000 hours, and the same 997 hours from a total BBC television output of 53,788 hours over its eight networked channels?

3) How can the BBC justify commissioning only 2.7% of its network television programmes from Scotland, one third of them repeated broadcasts?

4) How can the BBC justify commissioning only 779 hours (1.2%) of Scottish made productions from its total network radio output of 63,740 hours?

5) Despite serving a population that is equivalent to 10.5 % that of England, how can the BBC justify BBC Radio Scotland broadcasting only 4% of what local BBC radio broadcasts in England?

6) How can the BBC justify BBC Radio Scotland broadcasting less hours than many individual local BBC Radio Stations in England and only a fraction of what each individual BBC region in England broadcasts despite Scotland having a larger population than most of them?

7) How can the BBC justify the creation of BBC radio stations for London, Bristol, Derby, Manchester, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Stoke, Nottingham, Oxford and York etc., but not for Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, or Perth?

8) How can the BBC justify the creation of BBC radio stations for Shropshire, Cumbria, Devon, Gloucestershire, Cornwall, Humberside, Essex, Suffolk, Kent, Lincolnshire and Lancashire etc., but not for such Scottish regions as the Highlands, Borders, North east or Central Belt?

9) How can the BBC justify the allocation of 4,231 hours of radio broadcasting per year to the island of Jersey (with a catchment area of 74,000 adults) but only 2,616 hours for BBC Radio nan Gaidheal, which serves Scotland's 80,000 Gaelic speakers?

10) How can the BBC justify allocating 4,231 hours of radio broadcasting per year to the island of Guernsey (with a catchment area of 50,000 adults) while not providing equally extensive BBC local radio stations for Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles?

The BBC's logic is inexplicable in its allocation of resources and services.

There is no reason why there shouldn't be a several nation BBC Scotland radio stations and an improved television provision for Scotland, given that Scottish licence payers are already paying for it. There is also no reason why there shouldn't be a more fair dispersal of local radio stations throughout the UK.

More generally, why does the BBC insist on maintaining its eight network television channels and its ten network radio stations in London, the least cost-effective location in the UK, when the Corporation has 50 existing studios throughout England and a number more in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

These questions, and others, are perfectly valid ones to ask of a Public Service Broadcaster with a budget in excess of £2.8 billion of public money.

Scotland very much has its own national culture, identity and institutions. Not only in sport where it has its own national teams from football to badminton, from rugby to hockey, from athletics to curling, from swimming to golf, with its own national leagues and authorities in various fields. Scotland also has its own national cricket team even if the BBC has never covered one of its test matches.

Scotland had its own national newspapers and its own identifiable bank notes, national flag, patron saint, emblems and all the other things that most nations have. It has its own distinct legal and educational systems.

More than that, Scotland has its own distinct churches from the state Church of Scotland to the Roman Catholic Church which is quite distinct and separate from that of England and Wales.

It also has its own Trades Unions from the EIS to the Scottish NFU and its own blanket organisations such as the STUC and COSLA. Fire Brigade Union, Scottish Police Federation.

It has its own charitable institution from CHAS to the SSPCA, from the SSPCC to SCIAF.

It has its own National Trust, Natural Heritage organisations, National Galleries, National Museums, National Library, National Orchestras, Scottish Arts Council et al.

Scotland also has its own national parliament and legislature looking after most affairs of the country such as law and order, education, health, environmental protection, tourism, housing, roads and transport, rural affairs, planning, local government, social services, agriculture and fisheries and numerous others. Indeed, most aspects of Scottish life are now the remit of the Scottish Parliament and Executive with the notable exceptions of Defence, Foreign Affairs Social Security and Macro-Economic Policy.

For all intent and purposes, Scotland is home to a national community with a national identity and as such, has national needs and expectations.

The BBC providing BBC Scotland (radio and television) with only £87.5 million of its total £2.37 billion programme-making budget for core, Scottish programming and allowing such a skeleton service for Scotland is nothing short of scandalous. The BBC remains the only UK institution that doesn't fully acknowledge and respect Scotland's position in the United Kingdom.

The BBC has eight UK wide television channels all broadcasting from London.
The BBC has 10 UK wide Radio Stations all broadcasting from London.
The BBC has eleven Regional Television Channels in England.
The BBC has 40 Local Radio Stations in England.
The BBC World Service broadcasts in 43 languages, all from London. *

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