
Listed Events

2022 and 2024 Paralympic Games

CONSULTATION:

Publication date: 14 January 2022

Closing Date for Responses: 11 February 2022

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1. Overview

What we are consulting on

Ofcom has received a request from Channel 4 for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games in Beijing and the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games in Paris ('the Paralympic Games').

The 2022 Paralympic Games in Beijing will occur largely overnight for a UK audience. As such, Channel 4 intends to broadcast live coverage of the 2022 Paralympic Games overnight on the Channel 4 service, with highlights from the night's events shown on Channel 4 the next day. Channel 4 intends to broadcast live coverage of the 2024 Paralympic Games on Channel 4 and More 4.

In 2020, the UK Government designated the Paralympic Games as a Group A Listed Event for the purposes of the Broadcasting Act 1996. In accordance with section 101 of the Act, Ofcom's consent is therefore needed to broadcast exclusive live television coverage of the 2022 and 2024 Paralympic Games. The process by which consent is decided is set out in the Code on Sports and Other Listed and Designated Events.

This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on Channel 4's request before Ofcom decides whether to grant consent.

2. 2022 and 2024 Paralympic Games

- 2.1 Ofcom has received a request from Channel 4 for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 13 March 2022, and the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games, to be held in Paris from 28 August to 8 September 2024.
- 2.2 The Paralympic Games are designated as a Group A Listed Event for the purposes of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (“the Act”). In accordance with section 101 of the Act, Ofcom’s consent is needed to broadcast exclusive live television coverage of the Paralympic Games on licenced television programme services.
- 2.3 Channel 4 intends to broadcast live coverage of the 2022 Paralympic Games on the Channel 4 service. The live coverage will be largely overnight in the UK, with highlights of the night’s events shown on Channel 4 the next day. Channel 4 intends to broadcast live coverage of the 2024 Paralympic Games on Channel 4 and More 4.
- 2.4 The Act distinguishes between television services which are “qualifying services” and television services which are “non-qualifying services”. “Qualifying services” are those channels which meet certain qualifying criteria – that they are free-to-view and received by more than 95% of the UK population.
- 2.5 The regime seeks to ensure that, to the extent possible, listed events are shown on both qualifying services and non-qualifying services. Channel 4 has informed us that no other broadcaster holds rights to live coverage of the 2022 and 2024 Paralympic Games in the UK, and that it therefore intends to show exclusive live coverage on its qualifying services (Channel 4 and More 4).¹
- 2.6 Paragraphs 1.13-1.17 of the Ofcom [Code on Sports and Other Listed and Designated Events](#) (“the Code”) set out matters to be taken into account in deciding whether to give consent for exclusive coverage of a Group A listed event. They explain that Ofcom will wish to be satisfied that broadcasters have had a genuine opportunity to acquire the rights on fair and reasonable terms. The Code also notes that it may be sufficient if the availability of the rights was generally known and no broadcaster providing a service in the other category (in this case, a non-qualifying service) had expressed an interest in their acquisition to the rights holder or had not bid for the rights. Subject to consideration of any responses to this consultation, Ofcom is minded to grant Channel 4 consent for exclusive live coverage of the 2022 and 2024 Paralympic Games.

Responding to this consultation

- 2.7 If interested parties would like to make any comments about the request from Channel 4 for consent, these should be sent to Ofcom by email no later than 5pm on 11 February 2022. Details about how to respond to this consultation can be found below.

¹ Latest list of qualifying services - <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-1/listed-events>

A1. Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A1.1 Ofcom would like to receive views and comments on the issues raised in this document, by 5pm on 11 February 2022. If you are unable to respond by this date, please contact us (listedevents@ofcom.org.uk) as soon as possible to discuss.
- A1.2 You can download a response form <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-3/consultation-2022-and-2024-paralympic-games>. You can return this by email or post to the address provided in the response form.
- A1.3 If your response is a large file, or has supporting charts, tables or other data, please email it to listedevents@ofcom.org.uk, as an attachment in Microsoft Word format, together with the [cover sheet](#).
- A1.4 Responses may alternatively be posted to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation:
- Natalie Fox
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
- A1.5 We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language video. To respond in BSL:
- Send us a recording of you signing your response. This should be no longer than 5 minutes. Suitable file formats are DVDs, wmv or QuickTime files. Or
 - Upload a video of you signing your response directly to YouTube (or another hosting site) and send us the link.
- A1.6 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)
- A1.7 We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version. We will acknowledge receipt if your response is submitted via the online web form, but not otherwise.
- A1.8 You do not have to answer all the questions in the consultation if you do not have a view; a short response on just one point is fine. We also welcome joint responses.
- A1.9 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact the Content Policy team by email to listedevents@ofcom.org.uk.

Confidentiality

- A1.10 Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help people and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. So, in the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, and because we believe it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other respondents' views, we usually publish all responses on [the Ofcom website](#) as soon as we receive them.
- A1.11 If you think your response should be kept confidential, please specify which part(s) this applies to and explain why. Please send any confidential sections as a separate annex. If you want your name, address, other contact details or job title to remain confidential, please provide them only in the cover sheet, so that we don't have to edit your response.
- A1.12 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and try to respect it. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
- A1.13 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's intellectual property rights are explained further in our [Terms of Use](#).

Next steps

- A1.14 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a statement in February 2022.
- A1.15 If you wish, you can [register to receive mail updates](#) alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.16 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.17 If you have any comments or suggestions on how we manage our consultations, please email us at consult@ofcom.org.uk. We particularly welcome ideas on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of groups or individuals, such as small businesses and residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A1.18 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:

Corporation Secretary
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
Email: corporationsecretary@ofcom.org.uk

A2. Ofcom's consultation principles

Ofcom has seven principles that it follows for every public written consultation:

Before the consultation

- A2.1 Wherever possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation, to find out whether we are thinking along the right lines. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals, shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

- A2.2 We will be clear about whom we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.
- A2.3 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible, with a summary of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible for people to give us a written response. If the consultation is complicated, we may provide a short Plain English / Cymraeg Clir guide, to help smaller organisations or individuals who would not otherwise be able to spare the time to share their views.
- A2.4 We will consult for up to ten weeks, depending on the potential impact of our proposals.
- A2.5 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and aim to reach the largest possible number of people and organisations who may be interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's Consultation Champion is the main person to contact if you have views on the way we run our consultations.
- A2.6 If we are not able to follow any of these seven principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

- A2.7 We think it is important that everyone who is interested in an issue can see other people's views, so we usually publish all the responses on our website as soon as we receive them. After the consultation we will make our decisions and publish a statement explaining what we are going to do, and why, showing how respondents' views helped to shape these decisions.

A3. Consultation coversheet

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title:

To (Ofcom contact):

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

Nothing

Name/contact details/job title

Whole response

Organisation

Part of the response

If there is no separate annex, which parts? _____

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom seeks to publish responses on receipt. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name

Signed (if hard copy)