

Kate Biggs
Director, Content Policy
Email: commercialrelicensing@ofcom.org.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Notice under section 216(3)(b) of the Communications Act 2003 to the Channel 3 and Channel 5 licensees: deadline for applications for licence renewal

The Channel 3 licences and the Channel 5 licence are due to expire on 31 December 2024. Under the provisions of section 216(1) of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), the holder of a Channel 3 licence or a Channel 5 licence may apply to Ofcom for the renewal of their licence for a further period of ten years.

Of the 16 Channel 3 licences, ITV Broadcasting Limited holds 11 of the 15 regional licences: Anglia ITV (East of England), Border ITV, Central ITV (East, West, South Midlands), Granada ITV (North-West England and Isle of Man), London ITV (London weekday), LWT (London weekend), Meridian ITV (South and South-East England), Tyne Tees ITV (North-East England), Wales ITV, Westcountry ITV (South-West and West of England) and Yorkshire ITV (Yorkshire and Lincolnshire). Channel Television Limited holds the regional licence for Channel Television (Channel Islands) and UTV Limited holds the regional licence for Ulster Television (Northern Ireland). ITV Breakfast Broadcasting Limited holds the national breakfast licence.

The other two regional Channel 3 licences are held by: STV Central Limited (Central Scotland) and STV North Limited (North of Scotland).

The Channel 5 licence is held by Channel 5 Broadcasting Limited.

Such applications for renewal may be made in the period which began on 1 January 2021 and ending on a date which we have calculated in accordance with section 216(2)(b) of the Act ('the end date'). The end date, which is the deadline to apply for renewal of a Channel 3 and a Channel 5 licence, is **30 April 2023**.

Application for licence renewal

An application for licence renewal should comprise a letter, signed by an authorised representative of the licence-holding company, which provides confirmation that the licensee is applying for a ten-year renewal of the relevant licence under section 216 of the Communications Act 2003.

Alongside the letter, we will also require:

- a signed Original Declaration (a blank Original Declaration is being e-mailed to you with this letter); and
- unabbreviated statutory accounts for the last available financial period for the licence holding company.

Before granting an application for renewal of a Channel 3 licence or a Channel 5 licence, we are required to determine the financial terms on which the licence will be renewed, in accordance with section 217 of the Act. For a Channel 3 licence, we are also required to determine the area for which the licence will be renewed, in accordance with section 216A of the Act.

Our aim is to determine any application for renewal from the Channel 3 licensees and the Channel 5 licensee as soon as practicable, following the decision by the Secretary of State about whether to exercise their order-making power under section 230 of the Act.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Biggs', with a stylized, cursive script.

Kate Biggs