
Listed Events

2022 and 2023 World Athletics Championships

CONSULTATION:

Publication Date: 27 May 2022

Closing Date for Responses: 24 June 2022

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1. Overview

What we are consulting on

Ofcom has received a request from the BBC for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the 2022 and 2023 World Athletics Championships (“the Championships”).

Because the Championships are Listed Events for the purposes of the Broadcasting Act 1996, Ofcom’s consent is needed to broadcast exclusive live television coverage of them.

Ofcom is provisionally minded to grant this consent, subject to any substantive concerns raised in response to this consultation.

2. 2022 and 2023 World Athletics Championships

- 2.1 Ofcom has received a request from the BBC for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the 2022 and 2023 World Athletics Championships (“the Championships”).¹ These are to be held from 15 to 24 July 2022 in Eugene, Oregon, USA and from 19 to 27 August 2023 in Budapest, Hungary.
- 2.2 The Championships are a Group B Listed Event for the purposes of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (“the Act”). Under section 101 of the Act, Ofcom’s consent is needed to broadcast exclusive live television coverage on licenced television programme services.²
- 2.1 When considering applications, we look to see that broadcasters have had a genuine opportunity to acquire the broadcast rights on fair and reasonable terms. For this reason, we expect applications to include full reasons and all relevant supporting information.³ In this case, the BBC indicated that the rights holder invited bids from a range of broadcasters, including both “qualifying” and “non-qualifying” services.⁴
- 2.3 Based on the information provided by the BBC and because its plans secure coverage of the events free to air to audiences, Ofcom is provisionally minded to grant consent to the BBC for exclusive live coverage of the Championships, subject to any substantive concerns raised in response to this consultation. .

Responding to this consultation

- 2.4 If you would like to make any comments about the BBC’s request for consent, these should be sent to Ofcom by email to listedevents@ofcom.org.uk no later than **5pm on 24 June 2022**. Further details about responding to this consultation can be found in the annexes.

¹ The BBC has not shared detailed plans of its coverage schedule, but has asked for consent to broadcast live coverage on any one or more of their BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three and BBC Four services.

² Ofcom can grant consent automatically to requests to broadcast live coverage of a Group B event where adequate provision has been made for “secondary coverage” by another broadcaster (such as highlights). However, the BBC has indicated that, as at the date of its request, no such secondary coverage is expected. In these circumstances, our Code explains that we will decide whether to grant consent using similar criteria to those which we use for granting consent for coverage of Group A listed events (see paragraph 1.20 of the Code). These criteria are set out at paragraphs 1.13 to 1.17 of the Code.

³ See paragraph 1.29 of the Code.

⁴ Details of what we mean by “qualifying” and “non-qualifying” service can be found here - <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 24 June 2022.
- A1.2 You can [download a response form](#) from the Ofcom website. You can return this by email.
- 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 We welcome responses in formats other than print, for example an audio recording or a British Sign Language (“BSL”) 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.
- A1.5 We will publish a transcript of any audio or video responses we receive (unless your response is confidential)
- A1.6 We do not need a paper copy of your response as well as an electronic version.
- A1.7 It would be helpful if you could explain your views, why you hold them, and what you think the effect of Ofcom’s proposed decision would be. We also welcome joint responses.
- A1.8 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, please contact the Broadcast Licensing team by email to listedevents@ofcom.org.uk.

Confidentiality

- A1.9 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.
- A1.10 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.
- A1.11 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.

- A1.12 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

- A1.13 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish its decision on consent for the Championships in July 2022.
- A1.14 If you wish, you can [register to receive email updates](#) alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.15 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.16 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.
- A1.17 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)