
Listed Events

FIFA Men's World Cup Finals Tournament 2022

CONSULTATION:

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Closing date for responses: 4 October 2022

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1. Overview

What we are consulting on

Ofcom has received requests from the BBC and ITV for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the FIFA Men's World Cup Finals Tournament 2022 ("the 2022 World Cup"). The tournament is due to take place in Qatar from Sunday 20 November to Sunday 18 December 2022.

As the FIFA Men's World Cup Finals Tournament is designated as a listed event for the purposes of the Broadcasting Act 1996, Ofcom's consent is needed to broadcast exclusive live television coverage of it.

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

2. FIFA Men's World Cup Finals Tournament 2022

- 2.1 Ofcom has received requests from the BBC and ITV for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the 2022 World Cup.
- 2.2 As the FIFA Men's World Cup Finals Tournament is designated as a listed event¹ Ofcom's consent is needed to broadcast exclusive live television coverage of it.²
- 2.3 The World Cup consists of 64 matches, coverage of these matches will be shared between the broadcasters, except for the final which will be shown by both.
- 2.4 The BBC plans to broadcast live coverage of their matches principally on BBC One. However, some matches could be shown on BBC Two for scheduling reasons, and that there are a small number of matches happening simultaneously where coverage may also be shown on an interactive stream of BBC One or of BBC Two, or on BBC Three or BBC Four. Each of these is a "qualifying" service.³ The BBC also noted that it has acquired the rights to broadcast live and delayed audio coverage on their national radio network.
- 2.5 ITV explained that coverage of their matches is to be shown principally on the Channel 3 network, but that it plans to broadcast live coverage of a small number of matches happening simultaneously on ITV4. ITV therefore applies for consent on behalf of the relevant licensees for these services.⁴ Channel 3 and ITV4 are "qualifying services".
- 2.6 Ofcom also notes that S4C has announced that it will show live coverage of every match involving Wales, with commentary in Welsh. S4C is a "non-qualifying" service. S4C's coverage will not be exclusive as the matches will also be shown on "qualifying" services as set out above, and therefore Ofcom's consent is not required.⁵
- 2.7 Ofcom assesses requests for consent to broadcast live coverage of listed events on the basis set out in our [Code on Sports and Other Listed and Designated Events](#). The Code explains that Ofcom will want to see that broadcasters have had a genuine opportunity to acquire the rights on fair and reasonable terms.⁶
- 2.8 The BBC and ITV have provided us with information about the tender process. We note in particular that the rights were acquired in 2014 following the same process as the rights to the FIFA Men's World Cup Finals in 2018. Ofcom gave its consent to the same broadcasters' [request to broadcast that event](#).

¹ For the purposes of the Broadcasting Act 1996

² See section 101 of the Act.

³ An explanation of what we mean by "qualifying" and "non-qualifying" services, together with a list of qualifying services, can be found here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-1/listed-events>.

⁴ The relevant licensees for the Channel 3 network are ITV Broadcasting Limited, ITV Breakfast Broadcasting Limited, STV Central Limited and STV North Limited. The relevant licensee for ITV4 is ITV2 Limited.

⁵ See section 101(1) of the Act.

⁶ See paragraphs 1.13-1.17 of the Code.

- 2.9 Based on the information provided by the BBC and ITV and noting that the plans would secure coverage of the 2022 World Cup free to air to audiences, Ofcom is provisionally minded to grant consent to the BBC and to the relevant licensees on whose behalf ITV acts to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the 2022 World Cup, subject to considering any substantive concerns raised in response to this consultation.

Responding to this consultation

- 2.10 If you would like to make any comments about the BBC and ITV's requests for consent, these should be sent to Ofcom by email no later than **5pm on 4 October 2022**. Further details about responding to this consultation can be found in the annexes.

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 4 October 2022.
- A1.2 You can download a response form from <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-3/consultation-listed-events-fifa-world-cup-finals-2022>. 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 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 2022 World Cup in early November 2022.
- A1.14 If you wish, you can [register to receive mail 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)