

Listed Events

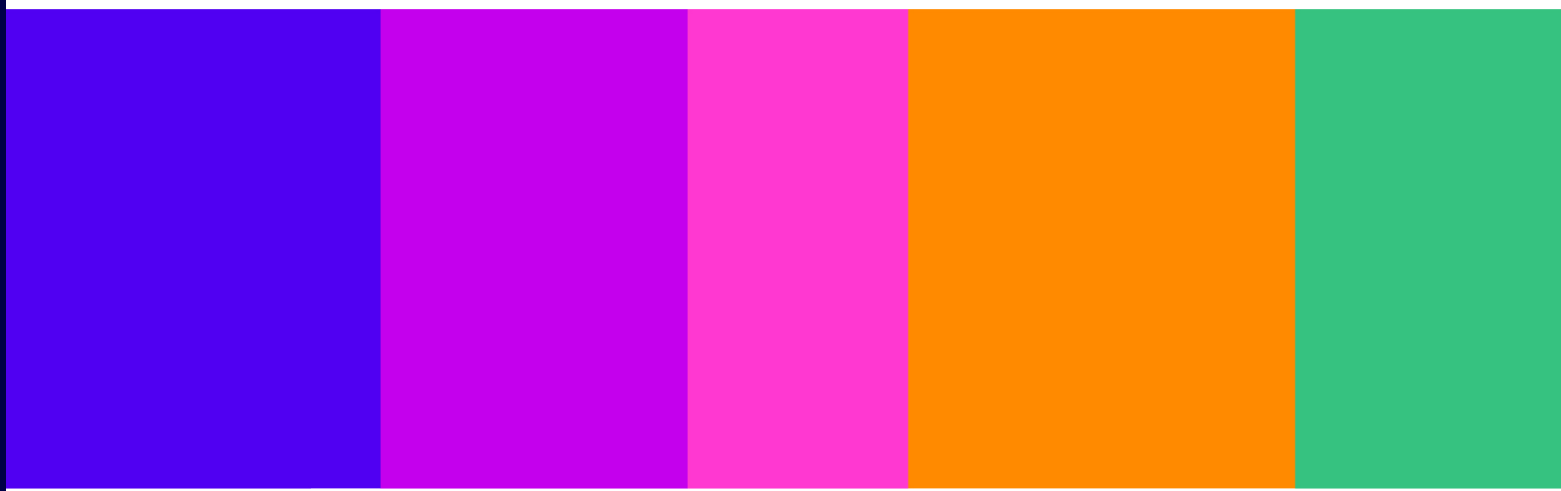
UEFA European Football Championship
Finals Tournament 2024 and 2028

[Welsh version available](#)

Consultation

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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 UEFA European Football Championship Finals Tournaments in 2024 and 2028 (“the Tournaments”). The 2024 Tournament is due to take place in Germany from Friday 14 June until Sunday 14 July 2024. The 2028 Tournament is due to take place across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in June and July 2028, with exact dates yet to be confirmed.

The UEFA European Football Championship Finals Tournament is designated as a Group A listed event for the purposes of the Broadcasting Act 1996. Under the Act, Ofcom’s consent is needed for exclusive live coverage of listed events.

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

2. UEFA European Football Championship Finals Tournament 2024 and 2028

Background

- 2.1 Ofcom has received applications from the BBC and ITV for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the UEFA European Football Championship Finals Tournament in 2024 and 2028 (“the Tournaments”). The 2024 Tournament is due to take place in Germany from Friday 14 June until Sunday 14 July 2024. The 2028 Tournament is due to take place across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland between June and July 2028, with exact dates yet to be confirmed.
- 2.2 The UEFA European Football Championship Finals Tournament is designated as a Group A listed event. Under the Broadcasting Act 1996, Ofcom’s consent is needed for exclusive live coverage of listed events.

Proposed coverage

- 2.3 The BBC and ITV plan to share coverage of the Tournaments.
- 2.4 For the 2024 Tournament, the BBC and ITV each plan to broadcast 25 matches exclusively, with both broadcasters showing the final. The BBC plans to broadcast live coverage of its matches predominantly on BBC One or BBC Two, but may show matches on BBC Four where there are scheduling clashes. The BBC has also acquired the rights to broadcast live radio coverage of the Tournament.
- 2.5 ITV plans to broadcast live coverage of its matches principally on ITV1, with this also being broadcast across the Channel 3 network, which includes UTV (in Northern Ireland) and STV (in Scotland). It also plans to broadcast a small number of matches on ITV4 where there are scheduling clashes. It therefore applies on behalf of the relevant licensees for these services.¹
- 2.6 The BBC and ITV anticipate similar arrangements for broadcasting the 2028 Tournament and have requested Ofcom’s consent to broadcast live coverage on that basis. However, they explained that these will not be confirmed until nearer the time and committed to update Ofcom if there were any significant changes. Ofcom therefore proposes to grant consent for the broadcast of live coverage of the 2028 Tournament on any BBC or ITV qualifying service.

¹ The licensees for ITV1 are ITV Broadcasting Limited and ITV Breakfast Broadcasting Limited. The licensees for UTV and STV are UTV Limited, STV Central Limited and STV North Limited. The licensee for ITV4 is ITV2 Limited.

Rights acquisition

- 2.7 Under the Broadcasting Act 1996 (“the Act”), the BBC and ITV’s proposed live coverage requires Ofcom’s consent.²
- 2.8 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”). In deciding whether to grant consent, Ofcom will wish to be satisfied that broadcasters have had a genuine opportunity to acquire the rights on fair and reasonable terms.³
- 2.9 In reaching a view as to whether it is satisfied that broadcasters have had a genuine opportunity to acquire the rights on fair and reasonable terms Ofcom will take account of criteria set out in the Code at paragraphs 1.14 and 1.15.
- 2.10 Ofcom has reviewed information provided by the BBC and ITV about the rights acquisition process.
- 2.11 The BBC and ITV explained that they acquired the broadcast rights in the UK on the basis of a joint bid made following an invitation to tender for the Tournaments issued by UEFA on 31 August 2021, which was notified to a range of interested broadcasters. Bids were invited by 28 September 2021. UEFA invited bids for rights to either or both of the Tournaments, and marketed a number of different packages including a package of live coverage rights. UEFA also invited broadcasters to bid on a “free” or “pay” basis.

Proposal to grant consent

- 2.12 Based on the information provided by the BBC and ITV, our provisional view is that broadcasters of both ‘qualifying’ and ‘non-qualifying’ services (for the purposes of the Act) had an opportunity to acquire the rights to live coverage of the Tournaments on fair and reasonable terms.
- 2.13 We also note that the BBC and ITV’s plans would secure full, live and free to air coverage of the 2024 and 2028 Tournaments, and that the BBC and ITV’s coverage proposals are similar to those for the 2020 Tournament to which Ofcom gave its consent.
- 2.14 Ofcom is therefore provisionally minded to grant consent to the BBC and ITV for exclusive live coverage of the 2024 and 2028 Tournaments, subject to consideration of any responses received to this consultation.⁴ For the 2028 Tournament, we are minded to give consent to show coverage on any of the BBC’s and ITV’s qualifying services.⁵

² Although the BBC and ITV will both show the final, Ofcom’s consent is still required for this coverage as both broadcasters propose to show it on a “qualifying service” for the purposes of the Act and therefore the exception in section 101(1) of the Act does not apply.

³ See paragraphs 1.13 to 1.17 of the Code.

⁴ We do not consider that it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment or equality impact assessment in relation to this proposal, as it falls within the scenario given at paragraph 3.6(b) of our impact assessment guidance (published 19 July 2023). See also paragraph 3.19 of that guidance in relation to equality impact assessments.

⁵ Including qualifying services provided by the licensees on behalf of which ITV applies for consent.

Responding to this consultation

- 2.15 If you would like to make any comments about the requests from the BBC and ITV for consent, these should be sent to Ofcom by email to listedevents@ofcom.org.uk no later than 5pm on 10 May 2024. 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 10 May 2024.
- A1.2 You can download a response form from [Consultation: UEFA European Football Championship Finals Tournament 2024 and 2028 - Ofcom](#). 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:
- Listed Events
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 of a response submitted to us by email.
- A1.8 It would be helpful if you could explain why you hold your views, and what you think the effect of Ofcom's proposals would be. We also welcome joint responses.
- A1.9 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

- A1.10 Consultations are more effective if we publish the responses before the consultation period closes. 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 responses on the Ofcom website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period.
- 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 To fulfil our pre-disclosure duty, we may share a copy of your response with the relevant government department before we publish it on our website.
- A1.14 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

- A1.15 Following this consultation period, Ofcom plans to publish a statement in May 2024.
- A1.16 If you wish, you can register to receive email updates alerting you to new Ofcom publications.

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.17 Ofcom aims to make responding to a consultation as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.18 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.
- A1.19 If you would like to discuss these issues, or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally, please contact the corporation secretary:
- A1.20 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 an overview of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible for people to give us a written response.

A2.4 When setting the length of the consultation period, we will consider the nature of our proposals and their potential impact. We will always make clear the closing date for responses.

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 the responses on our website at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. 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 you selected 'Part of the response', please specify 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)?

Yes No

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 aims to publish responses at regular intervals during and after the consultation period. 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)