Cristina Nicolotti Squires
Group Director, Broadcasting and Media
[redacted]

Rhodri Talfan Davies
Deputy Director-General
BBC

2 November 2026

By email only

Dear Rhodri,

BBC cost-saving measures

The BBC has announced a series of cost-saving measures and associated changes to television, radio and online services. I am writing to request a consolidated account of how the BBC intends to deliver the initial £200 million of savings and the basis for those decisions.

It is of course the role of the Board to take responsibility for the BBC's governance, budgets, editorial policy, and strategic and creative direction. Ofcom's role, as the independent regulator, is to hold the BBC to account for delivering its Mission and promoting the Public Purposes, and to ensure that audiences across the UK are well served. Ofcom does not have a role in deciding which services the BBC should operate.

We recognise the financial pressures facing the BBC and the need to make difficult choices. However, the measures have so far been communicated through a series of separate announcements. Taken individually, these do not provide a clear picture of the cumulative effect of the savings programme on the BBC's services, content and audiences, or of how the BBC's strategy will ensure that it continues to deliver its Mission and Public Purposes.

To enable us to assess the implications of the proposed savings, we would like the BBC to provide a consolidated account covering: the savings measures announced or under consideration and implementation timetable; the services, programming and commissioning activity affected, including any planned closures, reductions or significant changes to services; an assessment of the expected impact on audiences, including particular audience groups and audiences across the Nations and Regions of the UK; the mitigations the BBC is proposing, given the likely impact on the amount, range and nature of content available to audiences; and how the BBC intends to monitor whether audience needs continue to be met.

This is particularly important in relation to content and services that contribute to distinctiveness, including news and programming that enables the BBC to connect with all audiences across the UK.

Given the continuing announcements, it is important that we get this clearer picture as soon as possible.

Your sincerely,

Cristina Nicolotti-Squires