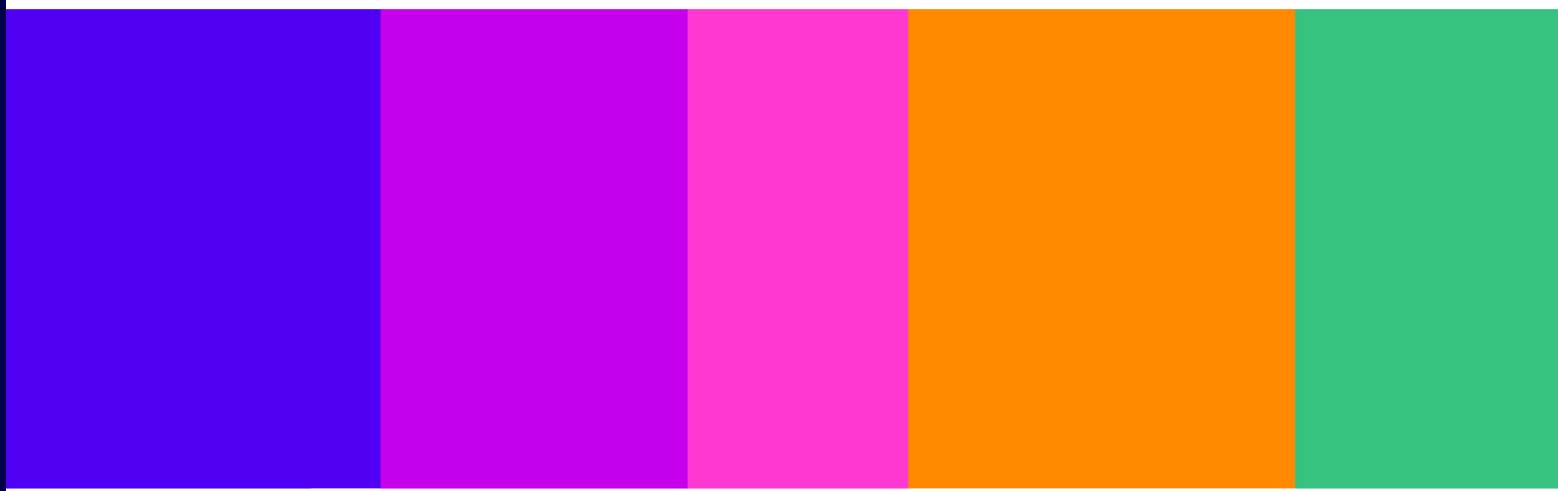


# Television channels required to provide access services in 2025

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# 1. Overview

- 1.1 This document explains which TV channels licensed by Ofcom are required to provide access services (subtitles, signing and audio description) on a proportion of their programming in 2025.
- 1.2 In 2025, 83 channels will be required to provide access services.

## 2. Statement

- 2.1 The Communications Act 2003 (“the Act”) required Ofcom to publish a code setting out the obligations of television channels licensed in the UK to provide television access services. Following consultation, Ofcom published the Ofcom Code on Television Access Services (“the Code”) in July 2004, together with an explanatory statement setting out the channels that would be required to provide such services in the following year. A copy of the current version of the Code, incorporating amendments made since the Code was first published, can be found on the [Ofcom website](#).
- 2.2 The Code also provides for a mid-year review of the audience share and revenues of UK-licensed television channels, based on data for the previous year. The purposes of the review are to establish whether, in the next calendar year, channels should be:
- a) required to provide television access services;
  - b) required to meet a different level of provision; or
  - c) excluded from the requirement to provide television access services.
- 2.3 The statutory targets for broadcasters are expressed as percentages of the service. They rise from a low level to the ten-year targets prescribed by the Act, that is 80% for subtitling, 5% for signing and 10% for audio description. In the case of Channel 3 services (ITV, STV and UTV) and Channel 4, the relevant target for subtitling is 90% and for BBC channels it is 100%<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.4 Ofcom has used the cost of providing access services to calculate three levels of provision that we apply to relevant channels:
- a) Level One equates to the full current annual targets for subtitling, signing and audio description, as well as any alternative requirements;
  - b) Level Two equates to 66% of the current annual target for subtitling, as well as 100% of the targets for signing and audio description, and any alternative requirements; and
  - c) Level Three equates to 33% of the current annual target for subtitling, as well as 100% of the targets for signing and audio description and any alternative requirements.
- 2.5 Data collected from broadcasters in early 2023 was used by Ofcom to estimate the costs incurred for the provision of access services. This helps assess whether broadcasters can afford to meet their obligations, by spending no more than 1% of their relevant turnover.

### Domestic TV Services

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- 2.6 The list of domestic channels required to provide access services in 2025 is at Annex 1. In brief:
- a) 83 channels will be required to provide television access services in 2025;

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<sup>1</sup> Under the BBC Charter and Agreement, Ofcom has specific duties relating to access services on BBC television and on demand services.

- b) 82 channels will be required to provide access services at Level One during 2025 and one channel will be required to provide access services at Level Two. No channels will be required to provide access services at Level Three. Subtitling targets are now the highest required under the Code (80%) for most channels, with audio description at the maximum level of 10% for most; and
- c) In addition, over 50 time-shifted services (e.g. ITV2 + 1) and simulcast HD services (e.g. Channel 4 HD) are also required to provide access services.

2.7 The statutory target for audio description is 10% from the tenth anniversary of the relevant launch date (normally the date on which a channel started broadcasting). Four broadcasters – the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Sky – have voluntarily committed to audio describing at least 20% of their content on their channels.

2.8 Finally, the statutory target for sign-interpreted programming is 5% from the tenth anniversary of the relevant date. Channels with a smaller audience share (i.e. an audience share between the audience share and signing thresholds set out in Annex 1 of the Access Services Code) are excluded from the requirement to provide sign interpreted programming. Instead they are required to either:

- a) provide a minimum amount of sign-presented programming between 7am and 11pm every month, subject to the targets shown in Table A below; or
- b) pay a minimum annual contribution towards alternative signing arrangements approved by Ofcom as also set out in Table A.

**Table A: Signing obligations for channels with smaller audience shares**

	<b>Signing obligations for channels with smaller audience shares</b> (These channels should show at least the amount of sign-presented content set out below unless Ofcom has approved alternative arrangements)	
<b>Anniversary of relevant date</b>	<b>Sign-presented content (monthly)</b>	<b>Minimum annual contribution towards alternative arrangements<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>First</b>	30 minutes	£32,041
<b>Second</b>	30 minutes	£32,041
<b>Third</b>	30 minutes	£32,041
<b>Fourth</b>	30 minutes	£32,041
<b>Fifth</b>	45 minutes	£48,127
<b>Sixth</b>	45 minutes	£48,127
<b>Seventh</b>	60 minutes	£64,214
<b>Eight</b>	60 minutes	£64,214
<b>Ninth</b>	60 minutes	£64,214
<b>Tenth</b>	75 minutes	£80,298

## Non-domestic TV Services

2.9 No non-domestic TV services will have a requirement to provide access services in 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Ofcom has adjusted these figures to reflect the yearly [Consumer Price Index](#) in 2023 being recorded at 7.3%. We will again review and, if necessary, update the minimum contribution levels when we publish the annual list of channels required to provide television access services in 2026.

# A1. Domestic channels required to provide access services in 2025

## Level One (full requirements)

BBC One	Nick Jr 2	Sky Sports Mix
BBC Two	Sky Arts	Sky Sports News
BBC Three	Sky Atlantic	Sky Sports Premier League
BBC Four	Sky Cinema Action & Adventure	Sky Witness
BBC News	Sky Cinema Animation	Challenge
BBC Scotland	Sky Cinema Drama & Romance	Movies 24
CBBC	Sky Cinema Family	Alibi
CBeebies	Sky Cinema Greats	Gold
Channel 3 Services (ITV/STV/UTV)	Sky Cinema Hits	U&Dave <sup>3</sup>
ITV2	Sky Cinema Premiere	U&Drama
ITV3	Sky Cinema Sci-Fi and Horror	U&W
ITV4	Sky Cinema Select	U&Yesterday
ITVBe	Sky Comedy	TNT Sports 1
Channel 4	Sky Crime	TNT Sports 2
4seven	Sky Documentaries	TNT Sports 3
E4	Sky Max	Discovery
E4 Extra	Sky Mix	Discovery History
Film 4	Sky Nature	Discovery Turbo
More 4	Sky News	DMAX
Channel 5	Sky Sci-fi	Food Network
5Action	Sky Showcase	HGTV
5Select	Sky Sports Action	Investigation Discovery
5Star	Sky Sports Arena	Quest
5USA	Sky Sports Cricket	Quest Red
Comedy Central	Sky Sports F1	Really
Comedy Central Extra	Sky Sports Football	TLC
MTV	Sky Sports Golf	
Nick Jr	Sky Sports Main Event	

## Level Two (full requirements for signing and audio description; 66% of subtitling)

S4C		
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<sup>3</sup> Dave, Drama, W and Yesterday will be rebranded as U&Dave, U&Drama, U&W and U&Yesterday on 16 July 2024.