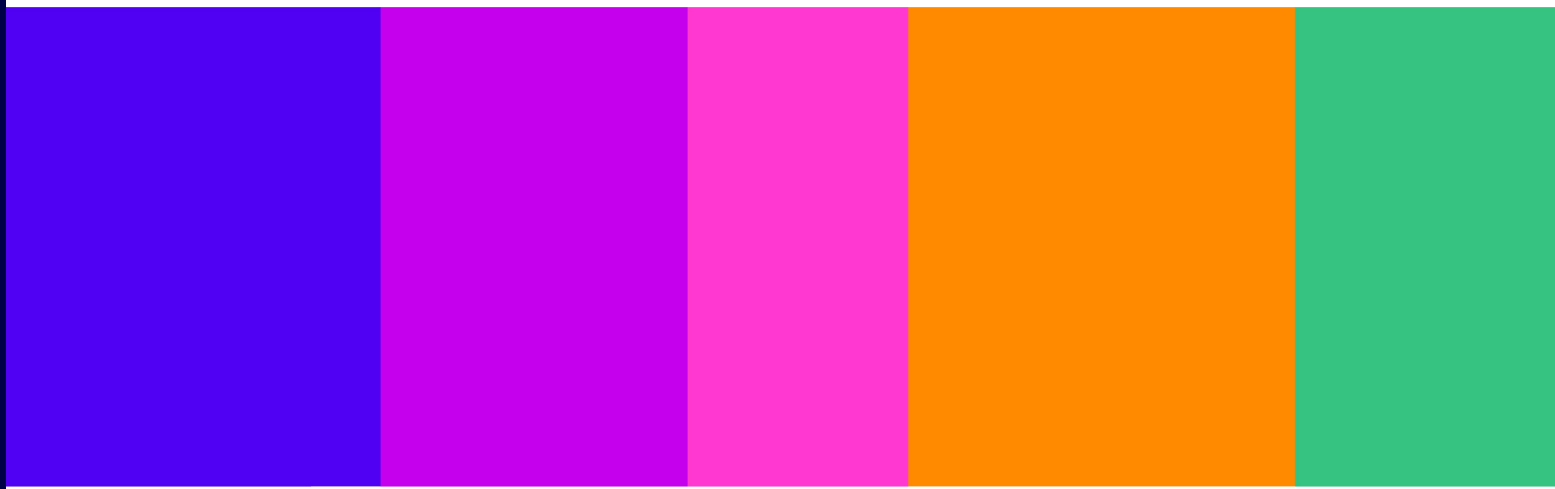


Television channels required to provide access services in 2027

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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 2027.
- 1.2 In 2027, 82 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%¹.
- 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 2025 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

- 2.6 The list of domestic channels required to provide access services in 2027 is at Annex 1. In brief:
- a) 82 channels will be required to provide television access services in 2027;

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

- b) 81 channels will be required to provide access services at Level One during 2027 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, time-shifted services (e.g. ITV2 + 1) and simulcast HD services (e.g. Channel 4 HD) of the channels listed in Annex 1 will also be 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 signed 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 5% signed 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;
 - b) pay a minimum annual contribution towards alternative signing arrangements approved by Ofcom (currently LumoTV) as also set out in Table A; or
 - c) propose different alternative arrangements which will be considered by Ofcom taking into account the factors set out in Annex 2 of the Code.

Table A: Signing obligations for channels with smaller audience shares

	Signing obligations for channels with smaller audience shares	
	(These channels should show at least the amount of sign-presented content set out below unless Ofcom has approved alternative arrangements)	
Anniversary of relevant date	Sign-presented content (monthly)	Minimum annual contribution towards alternative arrangements ²
First	30 minutes	£33,959
Second	30 minutes	£33,959
Third	30 minutes	£33,959
Fourth	30 minutes	£33,959
Fifth	45 minutes	£51,007
Sixth	45 minutes	£51,007
Seventh	60 minutes	£68,057
Eight	60 minutes	£68,057
Ninth	60 minutes	£68,057
Tenth	75 minutes	£85,103

Non-domestic TV Services

2.9 No non-domestic TV services will have a requirement to provide access services in 2027.

² Ofcom has adjusted these figures to reflect the yearly [Consumer Price Index](#) in 2025 being recorded at 3.4%. 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 2028.

A1. Domestic channels required to provide access services in 2027

Level One (full requirements)

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

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

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³ Sky One was launched on 24 February 2026, replacing Sky Max and Sky Showcase.