Part I: Key characteristics of the service

This service licence describes the most important characteristics of BBC Radio 5 live, including how it contributes to the BBC’s public purposes. Service Licences are the core of the BBC’s governance system. They aim to provide certainty for audiences and stakeholders about what each BBC service should provide.

The Trust uses service licences as the basis for its performance assessment and as the basis for its consideration of any proposals for change to the UK public services from the BBC Executive. A service may not change in a way that breaches its service licence without Trust approval. The Trust presumes that any proposed change to a stated Key Characteristic of a licence will require it to undertake a Public Value Test. Should it decide not to carry out a Public Value Test before approving any such change, then it must publish its reasons in full.

1. Remit

The remit of BBC Radio 5 live is to provide live news and sports coverage. It should be BBC Radio’s main outlet for breaking news by bringing its audience major news stories as they happen. It should provide context to its news and sports coverage through wide-ranging analysis and discussion.

Programming should be designed to inform, entertain and involve. The service should appeal to news and sports fans of all ages and from all ethnic backgrounds and areas across the UK.

2. Scope of this Licence

BBC Radio 5 live should be available every day for general reception in the UK on AM, DAB digital radio and digital television platforms and it may be simulcast on the internet.

It may also offer its broadcast content on fixed and mobile internet protocol networks or via other platforms. On the same platforms, it may allow users retrospectively or prospectively via pre-booking to stream or download multiple episodes of first-run series (known as ‘series stacking’) until a date no later than seven days after the last episode in the relevant series. This includes series where there is a break in scheduling between sub-sections of the series. The aggregate

1 In accordance with the Trust’s Syndication Policy for BBC on-demand content.
2 Programmes may be series stacked if the series has a distinct run with a beginning and an end and a clear ‘narrative arc’ or if it has exceptionally high impact.
volume of such "series stacked" content must represent no more than 15% of all content offered on-demand.

The service may offer its programmes streamed or for download on-demand for a limited period after broadcast. It may also offer broadcast radio content for download for an unlimited period of time after broadcast, although this must not include unabridged readings of published works nor full track commercial music nor classical music (even if recorded by the BBC), and other interactive station and programme-related content via bbc.co.uk. Broadcast audio programmes may be visually enhanced. The service may also offer some speech audio content online up to seven days in advance of broadcast.

3. Service budget

BBC Radio 5 live has a service budget of £46.1 million in 2016/17.

Any planned or actual change in annual expenditure on the service of more than 10% in real value requires approval from the BBC Trust and may entail variation of this Service Licence.

4. Overview of aims and objectives

BBC Radio 5 live programmes should exhibit some or all of the following characteristics: high quality, original, challenging, innovative and engaging, and it should nurture UK talent.

BBC Radio 5 live should provide a wide range of news and sport programming, including rolling news whenever a big news story breaks, live commentary on major sporting events (subject to rights), and a range of other programmes that inform and entertain its listeners.

The service should have an accessible tone and wide range of subject matter, and it should encourage listeners to interact with the service and share their opinions, such as via phone-ins, text messages and email.

Much of BBC Radio 5 live should be broadcast live and the station should to respond to events as they happen. It should seek to blend its news and sports programming in ways that help to draw in a broad range of listeners.

BBC Radio 5 live should cover UK and international news and should regularly offer news from across the UK. The service should give a broader perspective on current affairs through original and investigative journalism.

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3 BBC Radio 5 live currently offers a limited amount of mainly speech content on-demand for an unlimited time period after initial broadcast. Any expansion of the scope of this requires the approval of the BBC Trust.

4 Download of classical music in the form of incidental music, signature tunes or clips of up to two minutes duration within speech based programmes with a specifically musical theme is permitted.

5 This may include video related to output created for BBC broadcast, but should not include the commercial purchase of unrelated video rights.
It should offer commentary on major sports events and provide news and other programming on a broad range of sports, including those of minority interest in regular programming.

BBC Radio 5 live should make its high quality content available on digital platforms and promote DAB and other digital technologies to its audiences. This should include the sharing of resources with and promotion of BBC 5 live Sports Extra and other BBC digital services. It should use digital and interactive technologies throughout the schedule to develop its relationship with listeners. Broadcast programming should be enhanced online, including the use of some visual enhancements, and BBC Radio 5 live should use its website to present and enhance debate in areas of interest amongst listeners.

The broadcast output should be supported by a complementary online service and listeners should be encouraged to interact and communicate with the station and debate areas of interest. BBC Radio 5 live should use new technology to ensure its audiences have the maximum opportunity to access programmes as and when they want.

BBC Radio 5 live should contribute to BBC Radio’s commitment to commission some output from outside the M25 area and from independent producers.
Part II: Contribution to public value

5. Contribution to the promotion of the BBC’s public purposes

5.1 Sustaining citizenship and civil society

BBC Radio 5 live should make a very important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience by providing accurate, impartial and independent coverage of UK and world events in an accessible style. Around three quarters of its output across the year should be dedicated to news programming and current affairs. The weekday peak hours at breakfast and evening drivetime should comprise high-quality news programming covering the main news agenda of the day.

In addition to the regular bulletins and reporting, 5 live can approach news through other formats such as topical debates and discussion, with contributions from journalists, presenters, guests and listeners. News programming can feature a broad range of subject matter that is of concern, relevance or interest to the 5 live audience. Discussion and other feature items should have a clear news or topical impetus. There will also be times when 5 live will set, rather than follow, the news agenda through its original approach. All 5 live news programmes should clearly reflect the BBC’s mission to provide the best journalism in the world.

It should make use of its flexible live schedule to offer instant access to breaking news and become a rolling news service whenever appropriate. It should analyse news stories, provide context and give listeners a broad range of perspectives.

It should cover all aspects of UK politics and aim to make politics and the political process engaging and understandable to a diverse audience. There should be extensive coverage of local, general, and European elections, and of elections to the UK’s devolved chambers, as well as regular coverage of European and international politics. It should also report business news in an accessible and engaging manner.

Regular in-depth analysis, documentaries and specials should be used to bring original stories to air and provide scope for in-depth investigative journalism.

BBC Radio 5 live should encourage listeners to participate in debates and audiences should regularly have the chance to speak directly to guests, including politicians and opinion formers. The service should use its website to enable participants to discuss the news and set their own agenda.
Condition

BBC Radio 5 live should ensure that:

- News and current affairs programming represents around three-quarters of output each year⁴.

5.2 Reflecting the UK’s nations, regions and communities

BBC Radio 5 live should make an important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience by providing high quality, trusted sports broadcasting and sports journalism and by using a UK-wide network of reporters and producers to reflect events and opinion.

It should seek to unite people around the big sporting occasions that form a key part of UK culture and encourage participation in sport. The station should cover sports not widely accessible on UK radio. Specialists should provide expert analysis and opinion throughout its coverage. Should BBC Radio 5 live be covering a major breaking news story at a time when coverage of a sporting fixture had been planned, the sports coverage may be shifted to the station’s part-time digital service, BBC 5 live Sports Extra.

BBC Radio 5 live should offer live commentary, as well as news and other programming, on at least 20 sports from around the world across the year. Coverage should be a mixture of one-off events and regular programming. Sports output – including in peak listening hours – should aim to cover a wide range of sports, including those of minority interest.

It should regularly broadcast on-location coverage of news and sport from the nations and regions and its daily phone-ins should encourage debate and reflect opinion from across the UK. It should also seek to build communities of interest around particular sports on air and online.

BBC Radio 5 live should contribute to BBC Radio’s commitment to ensure that at least one third of relevant expenditure⁷ is incurred outside the M25 area.

5.3 Bringing the UK to the world to the world to the UK

BBC Radio 5 live should make an important contribution to this purpose amongst its audience, primarily by bringing the world to the UK via its news and sports coverage.

Its news coverage should call on the full range of the BBC’s international news bureaux and its debates and discussions should regularly cover international subjects and include international experts and news makers.

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⁴ This will be monitored on a programme by programme basis
⁷ This includes expenditure on first-run originated programming, but does not include expenditure on news or sport output
When major international stories break, BBC Radio 5 live should present live from the scene if possible with access to a network of BBC radio news reporters and producers. Similarly BBC Radio 5 live should, where possible, offer live coverage from overseas sports events.

The BBC Radio 5 live audience should be given the opportunity to debate and share knowledge with people from around the world - for example through phone-ins, simulcasts and live link-ups with outside broadcasts.

The station should seek opportunities to develop relationships with communities around the world and to connect communities in Britain with their roots abroad.

5.4 Stimulating creativity and cultural excellence

BBC Radio 5 live should contribute to this purpose amongst its audience by reflecting significant developments in the arts, and by reporting and reflecting on the theatre, film, music, art, books, television and radio.

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<th>Conditions</th>
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<td>BBC Radio 5 live should:</td>
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<td>• Contribute to BBC Radio’s commitment to commission at least 10% of eligible hours of output from independent producers</td>
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5.5 Promoting education and learning

BBC Radio 5 live should play its part in this purpose amongst its audience by offering in-depth analysis, documentaries and specials on a wide range of subjects across the news and sport agendas.

BBC Radio 5 live should take part in pan-BBC learning and social action campaigns when they are of significance to the station’s audience.

5.6 Emerging communications

The BBC’s sixth public purpose is defined in the Charter as "in promoting its other purposes, helping to deliver to the public the benefit of emerging communications technologies and services and, in addition, taking a leading role in the switchover to digital television".

BBC Radio 5 live should contribute to the promotion of this purpose in a variety of ways which are described in this Service Licence.
6. Annexes to this Licence

6.1 Annex I – Performance assessment

The performance of BBC Radio 5 live will be assessed by the Trust using the framework described in Annex I. BBC Radio 5 live’s compliance with any Conditions, as described in section 5, will also be measured on an annual basis and reported in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The BBC Trust will expect BBC Radio 5 live to comply with the commitments described in sections 4 and 5 of the Service Licence. The BBC Trust will monitor compliance with these commitments retrospectively as part of its periodic service reviews and/or on an exceptional basis if there is evidence or allegation of non-compliance.

Annex I: Performance measurement framework

The BBC Trust has the function of assessing the performance of the Executive Board in delivering the BBC’s services and activities and holding the Executive Board to account for its performance. It uses the framework described below as the basis for its assessment of BBC Radio 5 live.

The framework uses a range of metrics based around the four drivers of public value:

- Quality
- Reach
- Impact
- Value for money.

The Trust can amend this framework without this constituting formal variation to this Service Licence.

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8 Charter, article 24 (c)