

## **ITV Regions Statement of Programme Policy 2021**

### **Context:**

ITV's impartial, independent journalism makes an enormous contribution to public service broadcasting in the UK. ITV's regional news programmes are crucial to ITV and our viewers are at the heart of our programmes. ITV refocused its regional news service in 2014 and now provides 18 regional and sub-regional services covering the whole UK and the Channel Islands, except for those covered by STV in Scotland. We provide news seven days a week with bulletins throughout the day on weekdays including a half hour flagship programme at 6pm.

In January 2022, we announced that ITV would be extending our commitment to national and international news and audiences across the UK, by extending our evening news programme to an hour. From March 2022, the UK's most watched commercial national and international news programme has run 6.30pm - 7.30pm. The programme airs directly after ITV nations and regional news. We were pleased to be able to make this investment in what is an important public service strength of ITV - high-quality, impartial, trusted broadcast journalism - at a time when it could not be more important. The changes bring even more live, and out-of-London national news content to ITV's daily schedules, to reflect the whole of the UK and the biggest expansion of jobs in ITV News in 20 years.

### **1. Major news stories**

#### **Anglia:**

Coronavirus and its impact on the East of England once again dominated our programmes in 2021. The vaccination drive; the restrictions on visiting hospitals and care homes; the drastic effects of self-isolation on the hospitality industries - all issues explored through the personal experiences of people in the region. The impact of Covid on schools and exams was highlighted in *The Class of 21* - a series tracking the challenges and successes of individual pupils. Several stories which sparked huge reaction from viewers grew into longer-running series, most notably issues surrounding special education and access to GPs and dentists. Our emotional interview with a 101-year-old lonely widower sparked a flood of cards sent to his care home from all over the world. As ever, there were a number of major breaking news stories which prompted extensive coverage in special programmes, including the deaths of Capt Tom Moore, Prince Philip, and MP David Amess. We also produced a special outside broadcast to launch our coverage of the COP26 climate conference.

#### **Border:**

The pandemic was one of the biggest issues in the news throughout the year. ITV Border reported on the vaccine roll-out and introduction of mass testing centres. Throughout the year, we were careful to reflect different rules in Scotland and England. We felt this was an essential public service as many viewers go across the border on a regular basis. As well as reporting the human stories around care, loss and vaccination, Border focussed on how the restrictions - and easing of them - affected hospitality, tourism and agriculture.

The climate emergency was a big story in 2021. Border produced coverage across the year, building up to the COP26 summit in Glasgow. It included in-depth reports on climate change and agriculture, transport, flooding and extreme weather - all issues of particular relevance to the region.

Scottish Parliament elections were held on May 6th. The campaign was fully covered with fair and balanced news output, constituency reports and analysis of the main campaigns. Our political programme for Scotland, Representing Border, produced five weekly election

special programmes and five leader interview programmes during the campaign period in addition to their usual programming.

The proposal for a new coal mine in Cumbria is a controversial issue. As well as coverage of key developments across the year, Border produced a Debate Special to further scrutinise the arguments for and against. It ran for 20 minutes on the flagship programme with the full debate being posted online.

The death of the Duke of Edinburgh was marked respectfully with a well-planned programme looking back on the Duke's visits to, and connections with, the region.

Other programming included reporting on the impact of Storm Arwen, Mental Health Awareness Week and local success stories in the Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing.

### **Calendar:**

Through the year ITV News Calendar reflected the impact of Covid-19 across the region. Public service information about lockdown rules and the Government's spring and summer roadmap from the lockdown were communicated through graphics, interviews and online articles. The team found ways to ensure our programmes could broadcast live from returning events including the Great Yorkshire Show and Leeds Festival.

In April and May there was coverage of the local council elections, elections for Police and Crime Commissioners across the region and the election of a West Yorkshire Metro Mayor and the election for the Mayor of Doncaster. Covid restrictions meant that in some areas counting took place across the weekend after polling day and ITV Calendar provided a results service online in addition to the coverage in scheduled television bulletins.

Despite a lockdown, the team filmed an investigation into the impact of the cladding crisis on people living in high rise buildings in the region. The reports ran across three days and highlighted the financial burden people face as a result of developers needing to take extra measures to protect buildings after the fire at Grenfell. The findings of the investigation were raised three times by MPs in the House of Commons including once at PMQs. Dozens of people living in flats in Leeds and Sheffield offered to tell their stories after they were contacted by the ITV Calendar team. The story was also widely shared on social media.

ITV Calendar anchored from Westminster to facilitate comprehensive coverage of former Yorkshire Cricket captain Azeem Rafiq's testimony on the racism he suffered at the club. With live reaction from outside Parliament and in Yorkshire, from MPs, former and current club members and those in grass roots cricket, ITV Calendar analysed Azeem's evidence, which sent shockwaves across the sport.

In November there was focus on the impact of climate change in the region during COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference. On each day of the conference ITV Calendar reflected the themes being discussed in Glasgow through regional stories.

ITV Calendar became the first broadcaster to present a programme from inside Siemens Gamesa's turbine facility in Hull and gained exclusive access to the world's largest offshore wind farm off the East Yorkshire coast.

### **Central:**

- Covid continued to dominate the headlines in 2021. The year began with tighter lockdowns in specific postcodes where new variants were identified, and the ramping up of the vaccine rollout. As the infection and death rates fell, we reflected more on the region opening up, economic fallout, impact on education, effect on other NHS services and mental health. We were also keen to cover the positives, the

heartwarming stories, the heroes of the pandemic and those whose lives have improved during Covid.

- One of the biggest political stories of the year was the controversy surrounding Owen Paterson MP which led to his resignation and the subsequent Lib Dem victory in the former Conservative stronghold of North Shropshire. We provided live online coverage from the count throughout the night and reported live from the constituency the next day.
- We were also live at the Midlands Metro Mayor elections in May which was won by Conservative incumbent Andy Street. It was a big year for local elections across the Midlands - both council and police commissioner - and we previewed their significance and reported the results.
- We reported on the scrapping of the eastern leg of HS2 with a special programme live from East Midlands Parkway. It looked at changes to the Government's integrated rail plan and examined the likely effects on our region.
- One of the saddest and most shocking stories of the year was the tragic murder of six-year-old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes in Solihull. His step-mother Emma Tustin was jailed for 29 years for murder and child cruelty and his father Thomas Hughes was jailed for 21 years for manslaughter.
- Double child killer Colin Pitchfork from Ashworth, Leicestershire was released from prison after 33 years, causing a public outcry. Two months later he was re-arrested for breaching his bail conditions.
- We've featured many special investigations into pollution on the River Wye. Our Environment Correspondent Charlotte Cross co-ordinated coverage with colleagues in ITV West Country and ITV Wales to report on the health of the river through its entire length.
- We've been covering the events for Coventry's City of Culture, and inevitably, the effect of Covid on the schedule and what's offered.

#### Channel:

Covid continued to dominate the headlines throughout 2021 and the ITV News Channel team focused on the ongoing impact to businesses and especially within hospitality and tourism with border restrictions remaining in force across the islands. In March, ITV News Channel produced a programme special on the one year anniversary since the first cases of Covid-19 were recorded in Jersey and Guernsey.

Other key stories during the year included the dispute over fishing licences between France and the Channel Islands which escalated in May and saw a blockade of St Helier's main port by French fishermen attracting national and international attention. The team reported into the Network news throughout the day and produced a special live programme broadcast on location.

Politically, the programme followed key controversial debates on the future of Jersey's new hospital, proposed legislation on assisted dying and changes to the island's electoral System.

The team also produced special programming around the death of the Duke of Edinburgh with full coverage of events and reaction in the Channel Islands.

#### Granada:

Our coverage of the pandemic continued throughout 2021 with the vaccination programme rolling out across the North West. We told stories of the continued impact on communities, business and individuals. We did a couple of series one featuring key workers in 'Life under Lockdown' including a GP and a bus driver. We also did a series of reports looking at people suffering from long covid and the new clinics and services being set up to offer support. We closely followed the timeline of the easing of restrictions with special

coverage to mark Step 3 the reopening of hospitality, arts and culture and the travel industry because these sectors are huge drivers for the North West economy.

The Manchester Arena Inquiry reported back on its first volume on security at the Arena. It concluded that there was inadequate attention given to the current terror threat at the time of the attack. It recommended that security staff should've been briefed about the security level of 'severe' making them vigilant for any unusual or suspicious activity - highlighting missed opportunities. It also recommended more robust security measures be put in place at venues. We were able to report that most security staff were given short online training which proved ineffective.

A new chief constable was announced for Greater Manchester Police after the resignation of Ian Hopkins in December 2020. The new Chief Constable, Stephen Watson was announced in March promising to take the force back to basics to try and rebuild trust with the public. In September a damning report from inspectors warned that public safety was at risk due to the poor performance of the force. This is a story we've followed closely to ensure the public are aware of the progress of Greater Manchester Police and any significant improvements in performance.

Suicide remains the biggest killer of young people and we followed the story of Mike Palmer from Cheshire whose daughter took her own life during the pandemic. Mike spoke to our reporter Mel Barham warning that he sadly thought his daughter wouldn't be the only loss. Later, we followed Mike's event called '3 Dads walking' where he joined with two other fathers who'd lost their daughters to suicide the aim of their charity walk to raise awareness of young suicide, their story went on to make national news.

In the run up and during the climate conference COP26 we demonstrated how climate change is directly affecting people's lives here in the North West. In particular, focussing on some pioneering work in farming and helping viewers understand the causes of extreme weather. We were able to offer graphic explainers around weather and climate change as part of our online service.

The year ended with the terror attack outside the Liverpool Women's Hospital on Remembrance Sunday. We were on the ground in the city when it happened and were able to provide accurate information as to exactly what had happened, challenging the rumours and misinformation circulating on social media.

It was another huge year in the world of sport. One of the biggest names in football, Cristiano Ronaldo, returned to Manchester United. Across town, Manchester City were crowned Premier League champions and a special Granada Reports was broadcast live from Porto as City competed in the UEFA Champions League Final. The North West celebrated a number of gold medal successes at the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics - with Jason Kenny crowned Great Britain's greatest ever Olympian and Dame Sarah Storey Britain's greatest Paralympian. As fans returned to sporting events, our cameras were rolling in packed fan parks across the region as thousands cheered on England at the Euros.

### London:

2021 was a big news year for ITV News London. The high-profile disappearance, and later confirmed murder, of Sarah Everard led to an outpouring of calls for change on women's safety. We devoted a 6pm programme last March to the fallout from the vigil in her name, which led to clashes with the Police. The media was criticised in the aftermath for not covering other murders, including the double murder of two sisters in Wembley. On ITV News London, we extensively reported on the killing of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman; securing an exclusive sit-down interview with Mina, the siblings' mother.

Sadly, 2021 was a record year for the number of teenage murders in London - we continued our commitment to covering the scourge of youth violence and spoke to many of the families whose lives have been torn apart. We held politicians and the Mayor to account regularly over this issue.

The murder of Sir David Amess MP shocked the country, and we presented live from his constituency on the night of his killing. In the days that followed, we spoke to many who knew Sir David and reported on the work he did, including his campaign to convert Southend to a city.

We presented a debate programme for the main mayoral candidates in May 2021 and Charlene White's coverage live from Union Chapel was praised as 'first class' in reviews of our coverage. She went on to be shortlisted for 'Regional Presenter of the Year' at the Royal Television Society Awards, thanks to this programme.

The Euros and Emma Raducanu's tennis win allowed us to cover sport to a high standard throughout 2021, and also meant we could balance our coverage with some light amongst the shade. Excitement around the England team's London players and from Emma's home town in Bromley led to thrilling and positive top stories. We also covered women's football successes – notably, Chelsea's formidable season.

#### Meridian:

ITV Meridian's coverage of Coronavirus continued during 2021, with the start of the year seeing a second wave of infections. Our programmes reflected the situation in our hospitals, including one memorable report from the ICU unit at Tunbridge Wells Hospital. Our reporter spoke to one of the only patients on the ward well enough to be interviewed, who wanted to warn viewers of the seriousness of the disease. Days later the patient passed away before the report aired but his family insisted on it being broadcast to raise awareness. Other Covid related topics covered from a local perspective included: the roadmap out of lockdown, the vaccine rollout, schools and educational settings reopening, travel restrictions, long covid, the so called 'ping-demic' and the lack of lorry drivers and food supply issues.

Many stories reported on by ITV News Meridian also gained national coverage, like the murder of Sarah Everard. Sarah Everard was kidnapped in London and her body was found in Kent. The murder of PCSO Julia James, who was killed while out walking her dog was another high-profile story, as was the death of 27 migrants, who drowned while trying to cross the Channel. In the West of our region, we reported on a collision between two trains near Salisbury and our Thames Valley programme devoted much coverage to a major flat fire in Reading in which two people died.

Stories reflecting the climate emergency continued throughout 2021 with momentum building in the lead up to COP26. During the conference itself our region planned local content around the issues and themes raised at COP, so viewers could see how what was being discussed in Glasgow impacted their lives.

#### Tyne Tees:

Coronavirus remained a major story for the Tyne Tees region in 2021. We reported on important public health information including the roll-out of the vaccination programme. In all our work we focussed on the human impact of the story, reporting on those who had died or been bereaved, on how the NHS and care sectors were coping and on the economic impact on businesses.

In reporting on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh in April, we produced a well planned and researched programme which looked back at his links to the North East.



The death of Sarah Everard, was a story in the Tyne Tees region as she was born and brought up in the area. We reported on her disappearance through to the sentencing of the police officer who killed her, and also on the push back from women about their safety walking alone at night.

The government's policy on levelling up the north is a subject we returned to again and again as we tracked its success. Two particularly important moments we reported on were the granting of freeport status to Teesside and the announcement that the Treasury's northern campus would be sited in Darlington.

In August, the Bilsdale transmitter was fatally damaged by fire. Thousands of people were left without a television or radio signal. We covered the story as it developed, reported on those who felt bereft without services and on the efforts of Arqiva (the owners of the mast) to restore signals.

We produced a special programme to mark the launch of the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow, explaining to our viewers how climate change is affecting us, and will continue to affect us, locally and reporting on how the region has become an important centre for the development of both wind and hydrogen power.

In October we reported on the takeover of Newcastle United by a consortium including Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. We were the only local broadcaster to interview the woman leading the takeover on the night the deal was signed.

In November Storm Arwen brought with it a red storm warning and caused huge destruction in the North East, with trees felled, roofs blown off and power lines downed. Tens of thousands of people were left without power, some of them for weeks. We held Northern Power, councils and the Government to account for their handling of the crisis and gave out important public information.

### West Country:

The pandemic has dominated our news coverage across 2021. From the impact of the winter lockdown on the economy and the ongoing pressures on the NHS, to the relaxation of the restrictions and the social and business bounce back we've consistently spoken to case studies affected whilst also offering detailed political analysis of how the region's MPs interact with the rules set by the Government. The impact on the health service has been a key theme in our coverage of Covid with us regularly hearing from local hospitals and primary care, as well as patients and Public Health officials. We also exposed concerns from viewers over the PCR testing which then developed into an admission that a lab in Wolverhampton, that had been processing the majority of SW tests, had been making errors which led to tens of thousands of cases not being picked up. Once the full details of this error were revealed we produced a special programme exploring the impact on safety, faith in the system and exactly what had gone wrong.

*Bristol riot* - Last March we initially sent a camera crew and reporter to cover what we expected to be a peaceful demonstration in Bristol city centre against a new policing bill. What unfolded on that Sunday evening was shocking, with the police coming under attack as protestors laid siege to the Bridewell Police Station. The events of that evening resulted in the biggest policing investigation in the history of Avon and Somerset Police. The next day we took the bold decision to present from location to truly get over the sense of how shocking it was that a police station had been targeted, with officers forced to retreat inside. Our aim was to show what happened and hear the eyewitness accounts of those who were there, and then reflect on the impact of those events from a diverse range of voices.

*Cladding* - Our investigation into the issues of cladding revealed hundreds of people are living across the region in homes that could be unsafe. Initially we focussed on the residents caught up in the fire safety crisis at Portishead Marina who also told us they fear going bankrupt and losing their life savings to fix issues with their homes. There at least six blocks of flats were affected but it was clear from our investigation many more are affected. Following up this story we spoke to a woman in Bristol who says she is trapped and unable to move on with her life after her block of flats was found to be at 'substantial risk' of spreading fire and banks wouldn't lend money to her for the remediation work.

*Avonmouth explosion* - One year on from the explosion at a Wessex Water plant in Avonmouth, which killed four people, we spoke to the wife of one of the victims about the ongoing search for answers as to what happened. The piece looked at what's known about the industrial accident so far and also why there has been such a delay to the investigation into what happened. The interview with the wife of one of those killed in the explosion was powerful and insightful.

*Plymouth shooting* - The shootings that took place on the evening of the 12th August 2021 left the community of Keyham devastated and the whole city of Plymouth grieving and looking for answers. We produced a special Outside Broadcast which set out to not only give the horrific story of the night and the latest on the investigation, but also to do what ITV West Country does best, to be with the community and to get a sense of how that night will impact on lives for generations to come.

*Bobbi-Anne McLeod* - The killing of 18 year old Bobbi-Anne McLeod again shockingly brought the issue of women's safety to the forefront in our region. Initially a community and police search for a missing teenager, this story developed into a tragic story of a young girl whose life was cut short with her body being discovered abandoned on the South Devon coast miles from where she was last seen. Her death prompted vigils both in the community and across the region, which we covered live across our output.

*G7* - We produced 3 special programmes to coincide with World leaders coming to Carbis Bay in June. Presented live from Cornwall the shows were entirely built around the issues and stories that affected the local communities. Coverage included insights into how Cornwall has been a world leader for energy production, the impact of the region's biggest ever police operation on the residents of Carbis Bay and St Ives, the awkward juxtaposition of the world's richest countries gathering so close to one of the most poverty stricken areas of Europe, and of course the wide scale protests coinciding with the summit.

## **2. Innovation and achievements**

### **Anglia:**

We built on all the technical and editorial advances developed after the arrival of coronavirus in 2020. Rigorous health and safety protocols were adapted throughout the year, in conjunction with the other ITV regions and nations. Remote working continued where desirable and achievable. Camera operators at Anglia trialled and adopted new 360 degree mini-cams and a new generation of light-weight drones. ITV Anglia opened a new Cambridge Bureau in 2021. Based in a high tech business park at Waterbeach, the office connectivity is built around the latest meganet fibre technology.

### **Border:**

The remote and socially distanced methods of working which were hastily introduced the previous year became more fully embedded into normal practices and refined where possible. The addition of a 360 degree camera and purchase of Nanlite Pavotube lights have enhanced creativity in our output.

### Calendar:

On-screen journalists have been based at their home across the region since last March, and continue to edit their reports at home. During the lockdowns, interviews have been conducted through both web based technology and also on location. The continued use of LiveU technology has also enabled reporters to broadcast live from their own homes.

In addition any member of the team working at home can use No-Machine technology to access material and edit on the ITV News server and production systems. Web and Social Media output was also produced by journalists working from home.

All camera crews are equipped with 360 cameras to help support ambition for high production values. The cameras allow them to take high wide shots giving the audience an overview of the area being filmed and allow the operator to maintain social distance.

This year we will be trialling the filming of pieces on an iPhone and new technology which will allow us to broadcast live using the same phone. Our offices in Hull, Lincoln and Sheffield have fixed cameras which work remotely to enable reporters to broadcast live into the programmes and the use of the offices for lives has helped to maintain safety protocols for reporters.

### Central:

- We continued to broadcast all our news services throughout 2021, maintaining our opted bulletins and programmes throughout the day.
- Central Lobby, our regional political programme, resumed in September.
- All our reporters and crews were trained on a new laptop editing platform, Adobe Premiere Pro, which is faster, more intuitive and has more connectivity than their previous edit system.
- When foreign holiday travel resumed we were on the first flight out from East Midlands Airport and over the next few nights reported, via Liveu, from Portugal, reflecting the experiences of Midlandsers there.
- Our coverage of Leicester City winning the FA Cup for the first time in its history, combined with the city finally coming out of lockdown, won this year's Midlands RTS regional news programme of the year.

### Channel:

The team continued to ensure safe working across the region for both staff and contributors using technology to ensure that the newsroom could continue to provide strong live coverage on key events. Drone cameras were used extensively throughout the year and were key in the coverage of the French fishing blockade despite difficult filming conditions.

### Granada:

In terms of delivering the news and ensuring we are on multiple platforms at Granada, we have invested in our digital content with the appointment of a Digital Content Editor. This role oversees the commissioning and quality of our online journalism ensuring we are adding value to our content. This person also takes a lead on social media too. Our podcast 'From the North' has 30 episodes to date and is growing a solid fan base and currently rated 4.3 on Apple podcasts.

As a result of the pandemic many roles have had to adapt and become more flexible. We now have a number of hybrid roles in the Granada team that cover editorial and technical responsibilities both in front of and behind the camera.

In terms of equipment we have been trialling two DJI pocket handheld mini cameras. They use the same technology as drones to allow the camera lens to always be stable and effectively 'float' as they film. The two crews using the new mini cameras are our qualified



drone operators. We are also trialling the use of a mini microphone that can be connected easily to an iPhone so we can interview people and film for mobile journalism.

A new vision mixer was installed in our production gallery in 2021. This was a major project (especially because of Covid - having to re-train staff). It has allowed us to innovate how we produce lives with better operational use of graphics meaning that live locations are always displayed graphically whilst reporting from the field.

We have moved our chroma key/weather production studio space to a better area in our studio. This has allowed us to reutilise that space allowing pre- setting for special interviews or podcasts without compromising our weather production. We have bought new led lights to enhance our studio look. They were also used to great effect on our location debates for the Liverpool and Manchester mayoral debates in 2021.

### Meridian:

Zoom interviews and meetings have continued to have a role in delivering news coverage and during the lockdowns they were a great way to continue to get case studies and experts into our programmes. The ability to hold a meeting with colleagues online allowed teams to join editorial discussions and plan on the day stories and long-term content - from anywhere.

Our journalists were able to edit material from home and send reports remotely and we also found ways to curate our website and digital content from home too. We found we used LiveU's more than our satellite trucks, giving us more flexibility to move around on live broadcasts and not to be restricted by cumbersome cables. The LiveU's have also enabled us to be live right across the patch more easily and quickly.

The drone and live drone capability is now an essential piece of kit. The birds-eye view camera has added production values to many of our features and helped storytelling. When covering the murder of PCSO Julia James in Snowdon in Kent for example, the live drone camera showed the proximity of the crime scene to the local town while the reporter was talking.

### Tyne Tees:

As coronavirus took hold in 2020, we changed how we worked and introduced technology to allow many people to work at home. In 2021 we continued that policy but also allowed more people to come back into our offices when they felt it benefited them from a work or mental health perspective.

We made use of Live U technology to allow reporters to send footage for our programmes and website, to send their reports and to do lives and continued to invest in camera technology to add innovation to our work.

### West Country:

*Drones:* We continued to use our drones in both planned and on the day pre-recorded shoots as well as very regularly going live into the programme, enhancing both stories and weather production in the East and West of the patch. We invested in additional lightweight drones this year to sit alongside our existing drones which enable us to be more flexible in quick turn around shoots.

*Software:* We have started to roll out a new edit software package to all our journalists on the road. Several team members have been trained as super users in Premier Pro Software and are currently in the process of training other members of the team. We are about 75% through rolling out the new software. The software enables the team on the road to be more creative and is more stable in its use than our previous software.

*Truro office refurbishment:* The office refurbishment that commenced early in 2020 has now been completed after a delay due to Covid restrictions. This has enhanced the technical capabilities for the Truro based team.

*Meganet and SDWan connectivity:* We are currently in the process of moving our sites away from BT XNet to Meganet and SDWan connectivity for all our sites. New kit has been installed in Bristol and Exeter for a change over to Meganet and this work is currently ongoing. The move from BT XNet to SDWan connectivity in Plymouth and Truro offices has been completed.

### **3. Diversity and Inclusion**

#### **Anglia:**

Diversity Panel meetings have continued online throughout the year and again this has enabled engagement with a wider group of contributors joining from across the region. Panel members have given regular feedback on our programmes and many have also become regular on screen contributors. Ideas generated by the panel have included a feature on the Cambridge Deaf Association's signed football programme on YouTube and a piece about blind people training sighted guides. Specific initiatives included series to mark Black History Month, South Asian Heritage Month, and Mental Health Awareness Week. ITV Anglia delivered on a commitment to recruit a News Trainee who declared a disability for 2022.

#### **Border:**

Border's Diversity and Inclusion Panel continued to meet virtually across the year. Members provide a valuable opportunity for journalists to hear advice and feedback on diversity matters.

We produced a report on vaccine hesitancy in the asian community thanks to one panel member giving us the story and being willing to tell her family's own emotional story on camera. ITV Border took the lead on an ITV News Work Experience project as part of the company's Diversity and Inclusion Acceleration Plan. The objective was to showcase careers within ITV News to communities who may not otherwise have considered them.

With all ITV regions participating, we delivered four successful virtual work experience pilots, with participants sourced through our diversity panels and contacts. They involved behind-the-scenes sessions about the variety of jobs in ITV News, Q&A sessions with ITV staff, virtual tours of studios and advice on recruitment.

#### **Calendar:**

We have continued to work virtually with our Diversity and Inclusion Panels which have been meeting quarterly.

Commissioning producers join the meetings to hear feedback from panel members and the panels allow for a wide range of input, discussion and feedback. Some panel members have also joined post-programme meetings to give their views on the ITV News Calendar output to the wider team.

ITV has introduced a number of measures to improve Diversity and Inclusion. Under the umbrella label "Accelerating Change", one of the initiatives was a reporter attachment to the Content Hub, a unit that supplies tailored content to the opted ITV regions. Two members of the ITV Calendar team secured an opportunity to take on the secondment in the last year.

ITV News Calendar has supported a wider ITV project to offer work experience in a 'covid world'. The aim was to seek out people from under-represented communities and to continue a short programme of work experience through online meetings.

To mark South Asian Heritage Month in July and August, ITV News Calendar ran a series of pieces. They included a reflection of life from three generations of the same family. There were inspiring stories from sports men and women and the programmes highlighted the contribution people from South Asian make to the NHS in the region.

#### Central:

- Reporter Yasmin Bodalbhai won regional reporter of the year at the Asian Media Awards.
- We've had three production specialists on the ITV RISE management programme which is designed to build race confidence, promote minority ethnic talent progression and accelerate inclusive cultural change.
- All managers completed a race fluency course.
- A number of colleagues took part in the Accelerating Change programme designed to promote equality in the newsroom by offering development opportunities to under-represented groups. The training in recruitment selection has helped ensure our interview panels are more reflective of the local population.
- We continued all our Inclusion and Diversity panel meetings where members of the public feedback and make suggestions for our news service. All meetings were held virtually and we increased the number of members. They gave valued feedback on all areas of our output, particularly on transgender, LGBTQ+ representation, South Asian heritage month, violence against women and child mental health.
- In the past we have taken on Journalist and Administration apprentices. This year was our first technical (Production Specialist) apprenticeship. The programme is designed to help us build a diverse talent pipeline, embracing the creativity and differing perspectives our apprentices bring to our business.

#### Channel:

Although ITV News Channel couldn't convene in person regional diversity and inclusion meetings, the panel continued to meet virtually on a regular basis throughout the year and increased its membership. The newsroom also had a strong focus on diversity and inclusion in its nightly programme debriefs which included the sharing of daily monitoring figures with the team.

#### Granada:

Due to the pandemic a group from within ITV News devised a virtual work experience programme - these were held in November - a three day editorial course and a one day technical insight day. The Granada team were contributors to both courses relaying their experience and offering insight.

In March we held our second 'Confidence on Camera' workshop for women. The purpose was to ensure that female experts become more accessible to us as contributors thus ensuring the gender balance reflects our census. We had a dozen people on the virtual course, three with declared disabilities. This was a day-long course hosted by Granada staff including presenters, producers and correspondents with practical interview sessions and feedback.

We held our quarterly diversity panel throughout the year via Zoom and we added six new members. The panel reviews our coverage and challenges us over story choices and content. They also bring issues to us they feel don't get enough coverage as a result of their feedback in 2021 we covered issues on: digital exclusion, e-scooters and accessible gaming.

### London:

Our diversity panel remained very valued through 2021, and efforts were made to ensure we continued to meet regularly online during various lockdowns. We successfully moved the meetings to straight after the morning editorial, ensuring more constructive discussions were made ahead of that day's programme - rather than critiquing one that had already aired.

Two ITV trainees were both made staff following successful stints on the scheme. Both worked on their own unique story ideas through the year.

Ria Chatterjee, one of our well-respected reporters, won the 'Regional Journalist of the year' award at the British Journalism Awards, beating off tough competition from BBC journalists. Her work on youth crime specifically was recognised by the judges and she was described as a 'ferocious' journalist.

Our reporter, Sam Holder, showed huge commitment to rising anti-Semitism in London – securing several shocking exclusives of physical abuse. He also gained access to young people in a Jewish school talking about their experiences and their fears. Sam's report gained him a nomination in the prestigious Sandford St Martin awards.

### Meridian:

Technology allowed our local diversity panel meetings to continue in 2021. At ITV Meridian we held three diversity meetings with our South panel and three with our South East panel. As our critical friends they provided feedback on the programmes and stories we covered as well as giving us good contacts and stories from their own local communities.

As visits to newsrooms were restricted by Covid, ITV Meridian took part in a virtual work experience programme aimed at giving people from diverse backgrounds an insight into the television news industry. Work continued to develop the ITV News Schools Outreach programme. As part of our D&I commitments we plan to go into diverse schools and hold television news careers sessions for students.

On air we covered a range of stories for Black History Month. We reported on a new project in Portsmouth that aims to document the lives of the many Afro Caribbean people who helped shape the City and we covered a ceremony in Southampton to remember the soldiers who lost their lives fighting for this country in the two World Wars. We ran a report a week as part of our coverage of South Asian Heritage month, including a report by our main presenter, who explored what her Indian heritage meant to her. We featured a range of topics for Disability Month, including the barriers some disabled people face when it comes to getting fit, the Down Syndrome Bill and the issues facing people with invisible disabilities.

### Tyne Tees:

The ITV News Tyne Tees Diversity Panel continued to meet online through 2021. The panel advises on diversity & inclusion issues, offers contacts to the communities panel members are from and gives feedback on the work we do. The Head of News is a member of the local RTS committee which works to extend opportunities in television to students and young people.

### West Country:

Our commitment to better reflecting the diversity of the community we broadcast to has continued to grow in 2021. On screen, we have had an impressive improvement with portrayal of women - up to 49.27% in the west and 49.84% in the east. Both of these figures represent increases on last year and get us closer than we have ever been to the regional statistical percentage of 51%. Our portrayal of people from black, asian and ethnic backgrounds has also improved - up to 13.08% in the east and compared to a census total

of 5.08% and 9.4% in the west against a census of 2.4%. Again, both represent increases on 2020.

Editorially, we have continued to cover a diverse range of stories too. From calendar focussed events like Black History Month and South Asian Heritage Month, to more editorially led items like the rights of people with Down's Syndrome. We also work hard to bring more 'incidental' diversity into our programme, with a wider range of guests and experts.

Behind the scenes, our Diversity and Inclusion Panels have continued to develop and grow. Internally, we now have three more staff involved, offering support, ideas and challenges to our D&I leads. We have more contributors than ever before and our quarterly meetings are joined by staff from both an editorial and technical background, giving a real sense that the whole company is 'invited'.

#### **4. Public input**

##### **Anglia:**

Interaction with our viewers and the wider public continued at the enhanced level sparked by the pandemic in 2020. Social media platforms remain a primary source of newsgathering and a direct channel for feedback which often features in our broadcast output. The creation of a new role - Digital Content Editor - had an immediate and dramatic effect on the reach and impact of our social media and online coverage, and the way it informed producers.

##### **Border:**

ITV Border seeks engagement with viewers through email and social media comment. Our cameras are often on the street gauging public opinion on a range of topics. The Covid restrictions saw user-generated content come into its own and social media platforms are now a common source of stories, opening up a direct line of communication between individuals who post content and our news team.

##### **Calendar:**

The team regularly invites public contributions via email, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The programme presenters often read viewers' comments out on air. Our journalists find case studies for stories through social media. ITV Calendar viewers send their own pictures and videos, especially for stories connected to the weather or events happening in our region, and these are used in the programmes daily.

##### **Central:**

- A contact told us that there was a problem with child mental health support in the region and so we asked, via social media, for people to share with us their experiences. We had hundreds of replies and thousands of comments. The level of desperation many parents felt led us to devote a whole programme to the subject and we have since followed up with a number of interviews with MPs, Ministers and the Prime Minister.
- For Time to Talk day we shot a video, specifically for online, aimed at encouraging people to share the things in life that trouble them.
- We produced a video, again for online, featuring a wide range of authentic voices from ethnic minority communities in the Midlands, urging people who might be hesitant, to get the Covid vaccine.
- We produced a vodcast series - Coleman Cracks Down on Climate which explained complex environmental issues in an easy to understand way. The idea for this came while our weatherman Des Coleman was in self isolation, and the first part of the series was filmed from his home.



### Channel:

ITV News Channel invites public input and feedback via a number of digital platforms and comments and different viewpoints are regularly included in our evening news programme on controversial issues. Channel had record numbers of unique visitors to its website for several months during 2021 and continues to grow its social media following.

### Granada:

On days where we have a clear talking point within the programme we do include viewer's comments. We have covered such diverse issues as the rise in the cost of living, knife crime and people's favourite hobbies, sports and pastimes. This year we repeated our Advent Heroes series throughout December where we have self-authored stories from people who've done positive things in their communities. We supported the Daily Mile campaign, Soccer Aid and our Britain Get Talking campaign. We also produced special coverage in Mental Health Awareness Week, Black History Month and Climate Change Week. All of our special coverage is accompanied by online content too, with explainers or in depth articles.

### Meridian:

Every night viewers engage with our programmes and stories through our social media channels and on some topics 'viewer views' are read out to present a range of opinions. Viewers are also given details of how they can get in touch with us most days to encourage their input. Vox pops are widely used to gauge public opinion on local and national stories, whether it is to get views on plans for a housing development or the governance of the country. Our diversity panels are made up of members of the public - who are also viewers - and they give us feedback on our content throughout the year.

### Tyne Tees:

We invite public contributions via email, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and we regularly find case studies for stories via these means and occasionally read viewers comments out on air. We are very active in posting our stories on social media and use a moderation service to remove inappropriate comments from users.

### West Country:

The pandemic and in particular its impact on the health system had generated massive interaction with our social media followers. This not only has created a forum for people to share their experiences building on our insightful and trusted content, it has also led to many case studies coming forward with their experiences which have then been followed up and featured on the TV and in our web content.

We have also introduced a regular interaction section in our programme that looks to highlight the stories on our website that are generating the most discussion. This section includes both a graphic of the story and also some comments from viewers. We have changed our social media strategy in the past year to focus more heavily on engaging content, meaning interaction with our readers has grown significantly - particularly on our Facebook page.

Not only does this mean more people are seeing the articles we write in their feed, it also means we are getting a real-time reaction from our audience on the news we are covering. As a result we have been able to get a sense of what our readers want to know about big events such as the G7 Summit in Cornwall, changing Covid rules and restrictions or even local reaction to national and international stories like Prince Philip's death or the Afghanistan rescue efforts. We are then able to get the information our audience are asking for to them quickly and comprehensively, breaking down often complex topics into simple explainers both on our website and in our programme.

We have also experimented with Facebook Live, broadcasting live from the scene of big incidents such as a petrol station heist in Bristol and popular events such as the balloon fiesta. These have been really successful, enabling our readers to be on the ground with us and ask us real-time questions about what is happening at any given moment.

## **5. Media literacy**

### **Anglia:**

Our enhanced online and social media coverage is much more clearly focused and targeted, with special emphasis on search engine optimisation to reach the widest possible audience. We regularly highlight extended versions of set piece interviews and links to support networks on a wide variety of mental and physical health and other issues. We have also trialled virtual work experience sessions for people interested in both editorial and technical opportunities.

### **Border:**

Continued restrictions on movement reduced the opportunity for school visits by ITV Border journalists. Border's Managing Editor works pro bono for the NCTJ as chief examiner for broadcast journalism. ITV News again sponsored its Student Award for Broadcast Journalism in 2021. On air, Border directs viewers to the variety of online and social platforms where it publishes content as well as encouraging viewers to contact us by email.

### **Calendar:**

Staff members have been asked to take part in a number of virtual career events with schools and colleges in the region. These have been a mixture of both virtual and on-site meetings.

ITV News Calendar has continued to reflect how the pandemic has impacted people's mental health. Our stories on air are supported by online articles providing viewers with contacts and information on ways of finding help from charities and other organisations.

### **Central:**

- Unable to host work experience in the newsroom, we instead ran three online events to give students the opportunity to see what a career in broadcast news might be like. We ensured we chose people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- We hosted an online debate in the run up to the local elections exclusively for young people to discuss the relevance of local politics to their generation.
- We researched the most frequently Googled questions about Coronavirus and prepared a series of Covid explainers to counter misinformation online. The articles were in our top 20 most-read pieces for 2021.

### **Channel:**

In a year during which it was still not possible for students to come into our newsrooms for placements in person, ITV News Channel took part in virtual work experience days which proved to be highly successful.

The regional team also provided a full online experience for attendees of a special 'Virtual Jersey Careers Fair', through specially edited films on all the different roles within the editorial and technical teams.

### **Meridian:**

The Meridian programme directs viewers towards the website most nights. We regularly highlight extended versions of interviews and our specialist journalists, including our Political and Social Affairs Correspondents, add detail to stories with their in-depth

analysis. Bespoke content, advice, and insight is also produced around many stories to give viewers more information.

As part of our COP 26 coverage, ITV Meridian's weather presenters produced a piece for the online audience, sharing energy saving tips around the home. Our digital series 'In Conversation' features interviews with local people and experts. 2021 saw us speak to a GP about the pressures facing the NHS, a Paralympian who talked about his career and a male therapist whose upbringing led him to work with women who have been victims of male violence. These longform reports allow a journalist to explore a topic in much more detail that could be achieved on air.

Coronavirus restricted our ability to have university students in our newsrooms for work hands-on experience but we expect this to be reintroduced in 2022. Our local universities are keen for their students to work and learn from our programme and digital journalists.

#### Tyne Tees:

Throughout the year members of the team mentored young people or gave talks to school pupils or university students. Some of these were organised by the Media Trust, through requests by universities and local schools or after individuals contacted us directly. In doing these, we considered diversity and inclusion as key reasons for agreeing to requests.

We were part of several virtual work experience opportunities to allow young people to learn about opportunities within our newsrooms and will expand that programme in 2022. Our recruitment team ran workshops to recruit apprentices across ITV news, occasions which gave even those who were unsuccessful in their applications a great opportunity to learn about the TV industry in an engaging way.

#### West Country:

The ongoing Covid pandemic continued to have an impact on what we've been able to provide onsite within our newsroom but despite this we've been able to successfully offer a variety of opportunities throughout the year.

In February we provided a month-long production work placement. Working from home the candidate undertook research, set up stories and wrote digital articles for our website. Joining the morning and evening debriefs and regularly watching our programmes, she was able to fully immerse with our team and we were able to start offering her freelance trainee shifts ahead of her securing a fixed-term contract with us in August.

On 15 June our Head of News ran an online Q&A session with students from South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. This gave students an overview of ITV News West Country including our output, the area we cover, how our programme is put together and routes for getting into the industry including trainee schemes, apprenticeships and work placements. The feedback from the College noted that the session was really informative and provided lots for their students to think about.

In early September we offered a Journalism Masters graduate a week-long remote work experience placement. Working with our Digital Content Editor he provided research support to our digital team and contributed digital articles for our online content.

In September we also invited a further Journalism Masters student and BAFTA New Talent alumni, for a week-long placement onsite in our newsroom. She was able to shadow our Digital Editor and Content Hub PJ for two days before assisting with research and writing digital articles for our online content. We were really pleased to be able to safely accommodate her in our newsroom following H&S Covid guidance and this gave her a great

opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a busy newsroom environment. She went on to apply for the ITV News Traineeship and has successfully secured a place with ITV News Wales.

In November, ITV News successfully ran two brand new online work experience pilots. A journalism student attended the editorial dates on behalf of West Country between the 9 - 12 November. She joined a variety of online sessions with internal contributors across ITV News, this also included an online tour of a newsroom, a short Court Reporting workshop and News Careers tips and guidance from our recruitment team. On one of the days she was able to join our morning and evening debrief and watch our programme output remotely.

On 17 November three of our Production Journalists and our PS Apprentice attended the RTS Futures Festival in Bristol where approximately 250 students and entry level talent were invited for an informal networking event. There was lots of interest in our Production Specialist team and our apprentice was able to engage with lots of enthusiastic young people looking for opportunities within our industry.

### **Statement and focus for 2022**

#### **Anglia:**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Commonwealth Games, the football World Cup. We are also developing a summer series to drive viewer engagement with environmental issues.

#### **Border:**

The impact of the pandemic will be felt across the year, from new variants that might emerge to the mental health legacy and cost to business. Border will monitor and reflect on those stories across the year. We will report on how the National Insurance rise in April affects household budgets in the region and follow the cost of living crisis and its impact on our viewers.

We will follow developments in the potential for a second referendum on Scottish independence. The SNP government has stated its preference to hold a referendum before the end of the current parliamentary term, pandemic-dependent. Hadrian's Wall is 1900 years old and we'll cover a series of events marking the anniversary.

#### **Calendar:**

There'll be a focus on how the rising cost of living is affecting people and businesses across the region. In April and May there'll be coverage of local elections taking place across the region and the election for a new mayor for South Yorkshire.

At Westminster and in the region, Political Correspondent Harry Horton will analyse the progress of the government's commitment to levelling-up the north and south, alongside how Labour plans to win-back "red-wall" seats lost in the 2019 General Election.

The team will continue to report on the impact of climate change in the region along with how local communities are working to make a difference after COP26.

There'll be coverage of regional events and celebrations connected to the platinum jubilee for Her Majesty The Queen. ITV Calendar will also be reflecting other anniversaries including 70 years of the North York Moors National Park.

With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, in 2022 ITV Calendar will aim to broadcast live from the region's biggest public events including the agricultural shows in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and at the Leeds Festival. There'll be coverage of this summer's

Commonwealth Games when the team will report on the athletes taking part from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. In October and November our programmes will reflect the rescheduled Rugby League World Cup 2021, with games being played at stadiums around the region.

#### **Central:**

These are the stories we are preparing for in 2022:

- The build-up to, hosting of and legacy of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games will be a major focus in the West Midlands. We have hired a specially adapted Midlands' bus to present live from different venues during the Games itself. Our coverage will be focused on the impact on communities and individuals rather than simply the sports events themselves.
- We plan to report extensively on the two reviews into child safeguarding set up after the murder of six-year old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes from Solihull.
- When the Ockenden report is published into maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals we'll produce a special programme devoted to its findings.
- We'll also be following the inquiry into whether Nottingham University Hospitals Trust kept serious mistakes on its maternity wards hidden from health bosses.
- Derby County is in serious financial trouble and we will be closely charting its battle to stay in the English Football League.
- On a happier note the Midlands will be celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee this Summer - the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone.

#### **Channel:**

ITV News Channel will be producing two special live broadcasts from the Channel Islands Sports Awards at the start of the year. The team is also planning special coverage of the Jersey General Elections in June. The island has a new system of elections with changes to how the government is elected and changes to voter districts. Channel will be delivering regular in-depth news features in the run up to the election including information to inform the public about the changes to the system both on air and online to promote voter engagement. A programme special is planned for the Jersey election results.

Channel will also continue to follow the ongoing impact of the pandemic both on public health and the economy. The team will be following the Channel Islanders who will be competing in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and any successes for Jersey and Guernsey. It is also Channel's 60 anniversary in September and a special archive series of features are planned to celebrate the regional broadcasting milestone.

#### **Granada:**

In 2022 we are planning special coverage around a number of themes including the cost of living crisis, knife crime and serious youth violence, climate change and air quality in our cities. Levelling up and devolution will be a focus for our political coverage and the fallout from the Downing Street parties. We will gather reaction from our red wall seats where the Tories had made gains in the 2019 election. Our work on the Arena Inquiry continues, our appointed correspondent expects the final volumes to be published in the spring. We will continue to closely follow the fortunes of Greater Manchester Police. We have a number of high profile court cases such as the trial of the children's nurse Lucy Letby accused of the murder of 8 babies and the attempted murder of 10 other babies making it the biggest child murder case in UK history. Plus cases against footballers Ryan Giggs and Manchester City player Benjamin Mendy.

2022 also brings back a couple of big sporting events, the first TT on the Isle of Man for two years with the 100th race for legend John McGuinness. Plus the Aintree festival and the return of the Grand National after Covid. We also have some big anniversaries to mark too, it will be the 5th anniversary of the Manchester bomb attack and also 40 years since the Falklands war and the opening of the famous Hacienda nightclub.



### London:

2022 is set to bring more political upheaval in London – with the May elections. Crossrail finally opens in May 2022 – this is a story we have covered extensively over the years. Cost of living remains high on the agenda at ITV News London. And we also have plans in place for both the 5 year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire and the 10 year anniversary of the London Olympics.

### Meridian:

In 2022 ITV Meridian will carry on reflecting aspects of the pandemic as the long-term effects of Covid continue to be felt by people, medical settings, industries and businesses. Our journalists and producers will cover in detail the cost of living, reflecting the impact on local people of energy price rises, a rise in inflation and planned National Insurance increases. In June ITV News Meridian will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and report on regional events taking place to mark the milestone. We will cover a number of high-profile of court cases including the man charged with the murder of Kent PCSO Julia James.

There are a number of big sporting events happening in 2022: the Winter Olympics, the football World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. Local athletes will be taking part in all of these competitions and we will follow them in our programmes and online as well as hear from sports fans supporting them at home.

### Tyne Tees:

Major stories we are planning to cover include:

- Ongoing coverage of coronavirus
- Energy price increases and the impact of those and other price rises on the public
- Climate change
- The Government's levelling up policy for the north
- Local elections in May
- 1900 year anniversary of the building of Hadrian's Wall
- The Queen's 70th jubilee celebrations
- Teesside Airshow
- Tour of Britain race
- Great North Run

### West Country:

Our plans for coverage in 2022:

**Covid:** We will continue to report on the impact across the region. Specifically, in the short term, we are looking at staffing levels in key sectors such as food manufacturing, transport and, of course, health - which will be a particular focus. To that end, we have generated an "all staff" document to enable us to easily keep track of health stories we have covered, are planning to cover, to capture contacts within the health service, and staff and patient case studies. This tool will, for example, help us to monitor which bids have gone in where, and enable us to follow up on stories of interest that come through social media.

**Cost of living:** This will be a big theme for us in 2022. For our West programme, we are planning to look in depth at increasing poverty levels in parts of Cornwall that also have some of the highest property prices in the country. We will continue to look at the acute housing crisis there and elsewhere in the region. We will be following the work of one woman, in particular - Monique Collins, lead volunteer for Newquay DISC (drop in and share centre). Monique is at the heart of her local community. Whilst following her work, we will be filming with some of the people she helps who have become homeless, and those using the foodbank she works at - including some in full time employment. There will be similar coverage across other parts of the West with analysis locally, and from Westminster.

**Crime:** There are some big investigations and court cases coming up this year. We will have in-depth coverage on the Plymouth shootings with an IOPC report due to be published early in the year, and inquests due to take place later in 2022. We are also planning some special reports on the spread of “incel” ideology - filming with Exeter university who are carrying out some groundbreaking work that will feed into counter-extremism efforts. We will cover the trial of the man accused of murdering Plymouth teenager, Bobbi-Anne McLeod; the man accused of murdering Wells mother, Sarah Ashwell; and there are some fascinating cold cases coming up, including that of a man charged with murdering a woman 23 years after she was allegedly attacked in Weston-super-Mare .

**Climate:** This year we will continue to build on our climate coverage of 2021 - including a focus on our coastline, such as erosion along the Jurassic coast. This will, no doubt, provide some dramatic pictures. We will also be talking to those people most affected, including some who are literally “living on the edge”. We will be looking at the impact on wildlife, with experts saying some species such as whales and dolphins are coming closer and closer to our shoreline. We will be profiling some of the growing number of young climate champions across the region. And we will have analysis from our fantastic weather presenters.

**Celebration:** And finally, we are planning numerous different ways to celebrate our wonderful West Country. We will be doing features from the Isles of Scilly, our southern most part of the region. We will be following the staff of Bristol Zoo as they close the city centre site after 185 years there and move the animals to a new home. We will be reflecting how tourism is bouncing back. We will be at some of the year’s biggest events, including Glastonbury 2022, the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta, and many of those shows and festivals that haven’t been held for over two years.

And we will, of course, take every opportunity to get our reporters and presenters out and about, broadcasting live.

**ENDS**

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