

ITV Regions Statement of Programme Policy 2022

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.

Changes to our national and international evening news went live in March 2022, with our evening news programme extended from 30 minutes to an hour, with even more focus on reporting from outside of London feeding into the programme, to reflect the whole of the UK. We regarded this a crucial 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.

Anglia

Key stories in 2022:

The Queen's death was an historic moment for the Anglia region, with the Queen's life-long links with Sandringham in Norfolk and numerous visits to the region. We captured the impact on people here, reporting live at Sandringham on several occasions following her death and in the build up to the funeral, including a visit by William and Kate to meet mourners and view the flowers.

We covered the region's links to the war in Ukraine, including the response of the Ukrainian community living here, aid being taken to Ukraine from the region and families here welcoming Ukrainian refugees into their homes.

ITV Anglia set the agenda on coverage of the crisis in provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the impact on families. We exposed councils failing to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our society, including parents and children who've had to wait months, even years for an education. Through Freedom of Information requests we highlighted the number of families forced to fight for their child's education in the courts by councils, spending thousands along the way, only for the local authority to lose that fight 95 per cent of the time. We've become a trusted source for families wishing to tell their stories, and we've held power to account.

ITV Anglia tackled the issues of litter and waste in a special half-hour programme called *What A Waste*, with programme presenters live on location in West Norfolk. In-depth reporting and original journalism showed the devastating effect of litter on wildlife, highlighted how little councils were doing to enforce anti-littering laws and showed the journey our rubbish can take to the sea. On the programme and online viewers were invited to become 'Waste Warriors' and do their bit.

And in December 2022, we did two special programmes (Anglia East and Anglia West) called *NHS: The Worst Winter?* We used these programmes to take an in-depth look at the state of our NHS and the pressures it faces. Our programme included a report looking at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn which is being held up by more than 3000 props around the building, one telling the pressures on our ambulance service and another looking at the demands on our care homes and how these issues are all interlinked.

Other major stories included a campaign by the parents of Archie Battersbee to stop his life support system being turned off after an accident in Essex; exclusive elements following a conviction for the murder of schoolboy Rikki Neave nearly 30 years after his death in Peterborough; the discovery of the remains of missing teenager Leah Croucher more than three years after her disappearance in Milton Keynes; the impact of Storm Eunice on the East coast; and England's Women's Euros success - with captain Leah Williamson and young star Lauren Hemp both from our region, we covered the anticipation, celebrations and the legacy inspiring young players.

Innovations/achievements:

In 2022 the big focus for us was laying the technical foundations for Project Invest, our new centralised Avid media system. This culminated in November, December with Wolftech and training our super users ahead of the rollout in early 2023. Wolftech would be the first time that all the regions and nations would be using the same joined-up planning tool to set up and risk assess all our news stories.

The next piece of the Project Invest jigsaw, in the Autumn of 2022, was the rollout of the new News Production Vehicles or NPVs. A lightweight, hybrid solution to replace our fleet of ageing diesel satellite trucks. The big departure for news gathering was the move away from expensive satellite bookings and the innovative use of a LiveU.

The LiveU 800 is at the heart of the NPV and utilises mobile phone technology to send video back to base, leaving the satellite dish for emergency use only. A LiveU 610 also provides us with a mobile ITV WIFI hotspot and the ability to return-send live video from base back to the vehicle. Other innovations include multiple video streams back to base for multiple cameras on location and the ability to unplug the LiveU 800 and take it to the sharp end of the action, rather than running multiple cables back to the satellite vehicle. With a green initiative to keep weight to a minimum, an events kit was created which slots into the NPV for larger OBs.

We saw great success in the growth of our digital output in 2022. ITV News Anglia's website continued to expand at speed with 150% audience growth year-on-year - from 12.3 million page views in 2021 to more than 30 million in 2022. An example of this success was our coverage of the sad case of Archie Battersbee's fight for life, following the story through the courts but also shedding light on the boy behind the headlines. We secured an exclusive interview with his mother Hollie Dance which led to a digital-exclusive article and video. This led the national ITV News website and earned more than 100,000 page views. As the story dominated national headlines in early August 2022, our website had the busiest week in its history, with nearly 2 million page views in eight days. We also continued to make innovative use of data journalism tools, best illustrated in our coverage of the local elections in May 2022.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Anglia's quarterly Inclusion and Diversity Panel meetings were able to return to face-to-face meetings after being online during the pandemic. We retained the option of joining online and the meetings were well attended by representatives of communities across the region, as well as members of the news team. Our producers and reporters very much value the regular feedback on our programmes by our panel members, many of whom have also become regular on-screen contributors.

A member of the panel was involved in a training video for colleagues across the country to update on the sensitive use of language around LGBTQ+ issues. The Anglia panel also sent representatives to quarterly network panel meetings.

ITV Anglia began its Diverse Communities Project to build confidence and contacts in specific communities in the region. Colleagues were given time off-roster to develop these relationships with the Chinese community in Cambridge, black communities in Luton and Ipswich, the Hindu community in Essex and the Roma community in Peterborough. The initiative produced better contacts, understanding and resulted in on-screen coverage. Stories and issues covered during the year included a series of reports for Mental Health Awareness Week; England's first openly gay male footballer, Deaf Awareness Week items on signing and a deaf snowboard instructor; Ukrainians in the region; SEND Stories, Coverage for South Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month; and the legacy of England's Women's Euros win.

Public input:

ITV Anglia regularly invites contributions from the public, via our social media feeds and we routinely get feedback from viewers on email and by phone. We often use this feedback to inform our newsgathering and find case studies for future stories.

We had an excellent response from viewers in our *What a Waste* campaign. Along with a special programme focussing on the issues of litter and waste, we ran a digital campaign encouraging people to get out on litter picks at their local beaches/open spaces. A good number of viewers answered the call to action and made a tangible difference to their communities.

At a time of national mourning, people shared their personal stories of meeting, seeing or speaking to the Queen, showing the deep links she had forged with viewers across our region.

NHS: The Worst Winter? As part of a special programme looking at the pressures on our health service, we asked for online followers' uplifting or inspiring tales of the NHS, which were collated into an end-of-prog montage.

SEND coverage: as we set the agenda on coverage of the crisis in provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, we have had an overwhelming response from families contacting us with their own stories of fighting for suitable education for their child.

Media literacy:

ITV Anglia's stories on-air are regularly supported by online articles providing viewers with contacts and information on how to find help from charities and other organisations. We have also continued to make innovative use of data journalism tools, best illustrated in our coverage of the local elections in May 2022. As well as analysis and insight to help readers make sense of the wider politics, we provided up-to-the-minute visualisations of how power was changing hands across the East, allowing readers to delve into the ward-by-ward results. A number of members of our team attended careers events in the region in 2022 and towards the end of the year, we also launched our Schools Outreach programme, along with ITV News' new work placement scheme.

Focus for 2023:

We will continue our focus on the SEND crisis both on air and online, including commissioning exclusive polling and producing special programmes on the subject.

Other stories in 2023 include: the battle to protect the East Coast from erosion, NHS 75th anniversary, a special series on our education system under strain, local elections and coverage of the King's Coronation.

[Border](#)

Key stories in 2022:

The region felt the full force of nature once more with two named storms in particular - Storm Franklin and Storm Arwen - causing disruption.

In February, southern Scotland was celebrating the success of Team GB's curlers at the Winter Olympics. Four of the five in the men's team are from Dumfries and Galloway and Stranraer's Vicky Wright is part of the gold-winning women's team.

We marked the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth the Second with celebrations around the regions before marking her passing just a few months later - reporting on how those in the region paid tribute and how some even played a part in the funeral service at Westminster Abbey.

Border devoted a whole programme to recruitment in the care sector, looking at the challenges and rewards of a career in the sector.

We marked the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War with a strand featuring memories from veterans who took part in the conflict. We dedicated a whole programme to covering the funeral of Doddie Weir in the Scottish Borders.

Diversity and Inclusion:

The Border Diversity Panel continued to meet quarterly and remotely, as a hangover from the pandemic, but we were delighted to have reinstated in-person meetings by the end of the year.

Focus for 2023:

We will cover the coronation of King Charles, with special insight from Border presenter Fiona Armstrong, who plays a role in the ceremony in her capacity as Lord Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire. In news and in our programme Representing Border, we will continue to follow the investigation into SNP finances.

[Calendar](#)

Key stories in 2022:

Since the start of the War in Ukraine, ITV Calendar has reflected the voices of Ukrainian communities here along with the huge effort in communities across the region to provide aid for refugees in Poland. As part of the coverage, reporter Katie Oscroft travelled to Poland, to see how one small town in the south west of the country was helping to distribute aid that had been donated to a charity in Keighley. The programme also reported on the people who applied to house refugees arriving from Ukraine.

In May there was coverage of the local council elections, and the election for a South Yorkshire Metro Mayor. In June there was also coverage of the Wakefield by-election, which was triggered by the resignation of the sitting MP. Also in June, there was coverage of

regional events and celebrations connected to the platinum jubilee for Her Majesty the Queen.

ITV Calendar mounted a special live programme from Bradford on the eve of the result of the competition to be UK City of Culture 2025. Bradford took the title and we broadcast a celebratory programme the next evening.

In July there was a focus on the impact of climate change when the region faced a record breaking heatwave. The heatwave led to a number of wildfires in South Yorkshire, and Calendar has followed the stories of the many people who lost their homes.

Following the relaxation of Covid restrictions, in 2022 ITV Calendar broadcast live from the region's biggest public events including the agricultural shows in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and at Leeds Festival.

There was coverage of the summer's Commonwealth Games when the team reported on the athletes taking part from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. In October and November our programmes reflected the rescheduled Rugby League World Cup, when games were played at stadiums around the region.

The death of Her Majesty The Queen was marked respectfully with a well planned programme looking back on the late Queen's visits to, and connections with the region. Coverage continued through to the late Queen's funeral, with tributes and reflection from people across the Calendar area.

The political turmoil was reflected across the year through regional interviews with MPs at Westminster and with people living in Calendar's many parliamentary constituencies, the first hustings in the Conservative leadership election took place in Leeds and Calendar carried interviews with Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak. Later in the year Rishi Sunak's move to Number 10 saw Calendar mount an ambitious programme from Downing Street and from his constituency in Yorkshire.

Innovations/achievements:

In October when the parents of a boy from Huddersfield were due to be sentenced for his murder, ITV Calendar felt there was an opportunity to innovate to reach a much wider online audience than we would with other day-to-day news stories. The family involved were Polish and we made the decision to translate our content around the court sentencing into Polish, on both our website and social media platforms.

Even before we had shared links to our web articles via social media, analytics showed that many users were finding our Polish language articles through online searches. As well as internet users in the UK, much of the traffic was coming from abroad. The number of visitors to those articles continued to grow, eventually clocking up tens of thousands of page views. At one point in the next 24 hours both the English and Polish translations of the articles featured in the top 10 most read stories on the ITV News website.

Focus for 2023:

For the first anniversary of the War in Ukraine, Calendar is planning a special programme focussing on the challenges faced by the many thousands of refugees now living in the region. The programme has connected with a group living in Lincoln and a live programme is planned for the end of February. We are utilising the skills and knowledge of a Ukrainian journalist now living in Lincoln to reach the heart of the story,

ITV Calendar will investigate the rise in knife crime following a series of high-profile stabbings in Huddersfield. We'll look at the link between rising youth violence and cuts to youth services. A special programme is planned for March.

ITV Calendar will continue to follow how the rising cost of living is affecting people and businesses across the region.

Central

Key stories in 2022:

ITV News Central produced special programmes commemorating the death of Queen Elizabeth II throughout the official period of mourning. Our rich archive showed her impact on the region. We shared moving accounts from some of those closest to her and featured stories from those whose lives she touched. On the day of the funeral we followed Midlanders making the journey to London, as well as focusing on how she was being remembered in our region.

In December we dedicated a programme to the sad story of the four boys who died after falling through a frozen lake at Babbs Mill near Solihull. The tragedy touched the whole community who created a makeshift shrine, leaving hundreds of tributes, cards, flowers, balloons, teddy bears and other gifts at the site.

We produced a special programme on the day of the publication of the Ockenden report into maternity care at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals Trust. It found some 201 babies and nine mothers could have survived with better care. The "repeated failures" spanned 20 years. Six months later we went back to the Trust to follow up on what had or hadn't been done.

In late summer we covered the tensions between elements of British Hindu and British Muslim communities in Leicester. We spoke to local community and religious leaders and to those involved in the unrest about the reasons behind the violence and marches.

In happier news we produced many special programmes on the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. We hired a classic 1972 Daimler Fleetline bus built in Coventry to visit different venues and festival locations.

We also celebrated the news of Nottingham Forest's promotion and their civic reception in Old Market Square.

Innovations/achievements:

We enjoyed considerable award success in 2022 including winning the national and Midlands Royal Television Society awards for Best Regional News programme for our coverage of the crisis in child mental health care in the Midlands. One of our new recruits won Young Producer of the Year at the inaugural Society of Editors' Media Freedom Awards for her coverage of violence against women.

Our much-loved main presenter Bob Warman retired after almost 50 years in broadcasting. We produced a special tribute programme which aired exclusively in the Central region after News at Ten. We also arranged for a "Bye Bye Bob" message to flash at the "eye" in front of Grand Central station on his last day. He was later awarded an MBE in the Birthday Honours.

Our two drone pilots were trained in night flying and we flew our first live night flights in 2022, including a spectacular lights display at Compton Verney in Warwickshire. We replaced our diesel satellite truck with a plug-in hybrid. It enabled us to maximise our live capability and also provided a space for reporters to edit.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Off-screen: Programme and Digital Editor Nimesh Joshi was chosen to take part in ITV's first leadership programme for people of colour. The Amplify scheme included coaching sessions, leadership sessions and panel discussions with top industry speakers. He was matched with a sponsor from the Management Board and through the scheme became a mentor himself.

We increased the number of our Diversity and Inclusion panels, creating separate forums for the East and West Midlands. They each met quarterly. We updated our Diversity Monitoring portal to include the latest Census figures from 2021.

As part of ITV Able month Central, reporter Lucy Kapasi chaired a roundtable discussion for all ITV nations and regions colleagues about disability in news. Panel members included actor and presenter Sam Renke, diversity consultant Vidar Hjordeng, an ITV News manager and two trainees.

The Head of News and a production specialist qualified as Menopause Mentors to help raise awareness among colleagues, offer advice on what workplace adjustments were possible and where to go for help.

ITV News Central had success in the Ethnic Media Awards, which had been postponed due to Covid and were finally held at a ceremony in the House of Lords. Presenter Sameena Ali-Khan won the Lifetime Achievement Award. Programme and Digital Editor Nimesh Joshi and Reporter Rajiv Papat won Outstanding Contribution to Media. And former Central Early Presenter Balvinder Sidhu won an Outstanding Contribution award.

On-screen: We covered the 50th anniversary of the expulsion of the Ugandan Asians with a series of features throughout the anniversary week.

It was also the 75th anniversary of Partition and main presenter Sameena Ali-Khan interviewed her father about his memories of moving from India to Pakistan. We also filmed with a group of British Indian and British Pakistani young people to ask what Partition meant to them.

Public input:

We encouraged people to contact us with stories, and many of our "cost of living" items started with a viewer getting in touch with one of our journalists.

We used viewer feedback to give a local flavour of national events. For example we shared lovely Midlands/East Midland viewer memories of The Queen during her Platinum Jubilee.

As the news was so gloomy in 2022 our presenters often appealed for viewers to send in their memories on lighter stories we might be featuring so that we could refer to them after the item. For example after a feature on old tech we had many people contacting us with their memories of fax machines and typewriters.

Media literacy:

The 50th anniversary of the expulsion of the Ugandan Asians was the last chance many would have to tell their stories. Correspondent Rajiv Popat spent months collecting memories and then produced a bespoke longer-form documentary on YouTube for the anniversary. The accompanying explainer item on our website had a dwell time of over one minute. Rajiv also visited a local school to explain about the history of the Ugandan Asians.

Several staff members, both editorial and technical, are mentors to young people who want to work in the media. Other staff have helped university students. One spoke at a journalism festival in Coventry and another joined the executive board of the Broadcast Journalism Training Council. We continued our virtual work experience days for both technical and editorial roles.

Focus for 2023:

In 2023 we will be following developments in the construction of HS2 as the plans for the Birmingham to Manchester leg are expected to be approved by Parliament in January. We will also be keeping an eye on the spiralling costs of the project.

We will continue to report on the failings in maternity care at the Nottingham Universities Hospitals Trust and monitor the progress of Shrewsbury and Telford's Hospitals Trust implementation of the Ockenden report's recommendations.

We are expecting the results from the contaminated blood inquiry which affects many Midlanders.

There are two big anniversaries this year. The 75th anniversary of the NHS and the 75th anniversary of the sailing of the Empire Windrush. We are planning special programmes for both.

Channel

Key stories in 2022:

In June 2022 ITV Channel produced extensive coverage of the Jersey General Election which saw a significant change in the electoral process - something that our programmes covered in depth with on-air and online explainers in the run up to election day. Our team provided up to the minute online coverage of the election through the night as results were declared and produced an on-location live Election Results Special programme with full analysis of the voting, the following night.

In common with the rest of the regions, ITV Channel devoted considerable resources to special coverage of The Queen's death in September. Our team were live from each of the Channel Islands for the first full programme following the announcement reflecting reaction and tributes from all parts of our community across the region. Our special coverage continued for the next 10 days, looking back at the Channel islands' strong links with the Monarchy and the constitutional history that underpins that relationship. An additional programme on the day of The Queen's funeral won a regional RTS award for Royal Coverage during that year.

The end of the year saw the coverage of two significant tragedies in the Islands within just days of each other. The first was coverage of a collision between a Jersey fishing boat and a commercial ferry which resulted in the loss of all those on board the fishing vessel. We broadcast a programme special on the impact of the tragedy among the close-knit local fishing community and the investigation that was launched into what caused the accident.

Only two days later Jersey was to be rocked again by a huge gas explosion in the early hours of the morning which destroyed a block of flats and killed 10 people. We broadcast a moving special programme covering the aftermath of the explosion, the emergency response and tributes to those who died.

Innovations/achievements:

In 2022 ITV Channel continued to update their ability to go live from locations by replacing the existing satellite truck. The new 'News Production Vehicle', which is part of a significant technology upgrade and investment over the next year, has the ability to transmit using both VSat and LiveU technologies, and gives Channel the ability to transmit live even when there is no phone network available. The vehicle also has editing capabilities for editorial staff to work more flexibly on location.

Diversity and Inclusion:

ITV Channel continued to host quarterly meetings of its Diversity and Inclusion panel throughout 2022 and strengthened the panel with a number of new members. The panel provided valuable input for our coverage of the June General Election in Jersey ensuring we reflected views and opinions across a wide cross section of our communities.

Public input:

ITV News Channel continued to invite public input and feedback via a number of digital platforms and comments, including social media channels and emails. Data shows that ITV Channel continues to lead engagement on its digital platforms compared with all other media outlets in the region.

Media literacy:

ITV Channel staff were proactive throughout the year in hosting groups of students on-station for tours, talks and demonstrations and both editorial and technical staff delivered a number of talks to local groups and organisations about the regional service as part of its 'Schools Outreach Programme'. Staff spent time with local secondary school students at the Jersey Careers Fair, delivering presentations on the roles of the editorial and technical teams and providing online videos for virtual events. Weather presenter Shireen Jordan also conducted a number of specific 'weather tours' for students and community groups. A number of students have also been invited to join a number of virtual work experience days and in-person work experience placements via the ITV News Insight Scheme.

Focus for 2023:

ITV News Channel will be producing two special live broadcasts from the Channel Islands Sports Awards at the start of the year. The team will also be producing expensive special coverage of the 2023 Island Games which is being hosted by Guernsey. Full coverage of the preparations in the run up to the Games, full daily coverage highlights of the Games and the medals table both on-screen and online will feature in our nightly 6pm programmes. We will also be producing a daily additional half hour highlights programme - 'Today at the Games' each night of the week-long event.

Granada

Key stories in 2022:

Key stories for Granada in 2022 centred on gun crime in Liverpool, a city region that had seen gun crime fall was faced with five fatal shootings in a matter of months. The youngest victim was Olivia Pratt Korbel at just 9 years old, shot dead in her own home. The community were left shocked and scared and we were out on location reporting live from Dovecot. The year ended with the death of 26 year old Elle Edwards shot dead outside a pub on Christmas Eve - the use of weapons by drug gangs appears to be challenging police in terms of intelligence gathering and the apparent lack of any victim empathy from the perpetrators.

Other major stories in the North West included the announcement of the so-called Hillsborough law which would see organisations and authorities obliged to tell the truth in the aftermath of disasters. The need for this was proven by the publication of the second chapter of the Manchester Arena Inquiry where it was shown that Greater Manchester Police has initially lied to the inquiry and where all of the emergency services were forced to publicly apologise for their poor response to the attack. We produced a special programme on its publication in November that went on to win a national Royal Television Society award.

As a team we covered the death of The Queen in September producing special coverage across the period of national mourning surfacing regional stories that reflected her connections with the people and places of the North West.

The year ended with the start of the trial of Lucy Letby, a trial that brought significant challenges in terms of reporting restrictions, its length meaning we had to commit resources for a long period of time to ensure we had all the right intelligence to be able to report the full story on the conclusion of the trial.

Innovations/achievements:

In September we took delivery of a News Production Vehicle that gives us a mobile unit we can use as a base on a story so we can edit on location. It has a LiveU 800 onboard which provides us with the capacity to go live in places we have previously found impractical due to cabling, etc. As the LiveU 800 can easily be lifted out of the vehicle It means we can go live from pretty much anywhere and be on the move, we have used it on rooftops, trains and buses and inside busy shopping areas. This has opened up huge possibilities for us as a live broadcaster.

We continue with our Innovation Lab to push the boundaries of mobile journalism using a kit of parts to give us the best tools to fit the job in hand. If we are covering riots or protests the mobile kits make us nimble and allow us to be less noticeable than with a large camera. The best camera they say is the one you have on you at the time and so mobile kits are becoming more and more useful to our journalists based in the community.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Our apprentice successfully completed his junior journalist course and is now working for the BBC here at Media City. We remain in touch and continue to offer career advice and support. We have a new trainee who has South Asian heritage which is helping us to make contacts and surface stories within those communities in the North West.

We were the only regional broadcaster to cover the story of Ademola Adedeji, a teenager jailed for eight years for taking part in a group chat ahead of the murder of his childhood

friend. Ade was one of ten boys described as being part of a gang from Moston in North Manchester, who were convicted of conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to commit serious harm. Our reporter worked with his family for months to win their trust to be able to share their experience of our justice system. It's an example of how by changing the makeup of our team we are able to bring stories to our audience that otherwise would have been left untold.

The Head of News has undertaken a Level 5 Professional Coaching apprenticeship. The aim is to be able to offer support and career development across the ITV News workforce. They are already working with four aspiring managers to support them as they take on greater responsibility within their own teams.

We have continued to work with our Diversity and Inclusion panels who offer us constructive feedback on our content both on television and online.

Public input:

We had seven people come for work experience, this comprises two days, one spent observing and working with the team at the studio and the second on location on a story. With regard to students we are now working with them to offer a more useful experience so working under supervision we aim to get them producing live bulletins over a three month period. This has worked extremely well on both sides and has helped secure longer term work for final year graduates with ITV.

We held a school visit for 10 students from the Oasis Academy which is in Salford their population is mainly BAME. As part of Black History month we organised an immersive visit where the pupils from years 7 & 8 were able to hear from our presenters and reporters and see some of our camera equipment. We then took them into the studio and gallery so they could get hands on having a go at presenting the weather and reading the news.

Media literacy:

As part of ITV we have worked on a regional basis to promote the launch of the fourth year of our campaign to get children eating more vegetables via the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign. We have supported the nominations and featured people shortlisted for the regional fundraiser of the year for the Daily Mirror Pride of Britain awards. We also brought back The Peoples Project to ITV where working with the National Lottery tens of thousands of pounds is given to community projects that bring people together and build strong relationships and communities stronger and more inclusive.

Focus for 2023:

In 2023 we will continue to invest in the trial of Lucy Letby, the nurse accused of killing 8 babies and attempting to murder a further 10. We also have the upcoming trials of Thomas Cashman accused of shooting 9 year old Olivia Pratt Korbel and Connor Chapman for the shooting of 26 year old Elle Edwards on Christmas Eve.

We will offer special coverage of the King's Coronation in May. We are looking forward to Eurovision hosted by the city of Liverpool on behalf of the people of Ukraine, and the Women's World Cup as the England squad features 12 players from the North West.

And it's 75 years of the NHS which, after a difficult 2022 with strikes and waiting lists, we have plenty to consider as this institution born at Park Hospital in Trafford turns 75.

London

Key stories in 2022:

Politics and public service stories played a key part of the ITV News London agenda in 2022. We extensively reported on the build-up and launch of the much-awaited Crossrail project. Transport stories were also covered comprehensively on our digital services, and the disruptive tube and rail strikes of 2022 saw a spike in hits to our website.

Elsewhere, crime remained a constant throughout 2022, and the resignation of Met police chief, Dame Cressida Dick, dominated the early part of the year for ITV News London.

We of course broadcast a series of special reports and programmes, after the passing of Her Majesty the Queen in September 2022; presenting live from Buckingham Palace. We reported on events leading up to the funeral, including the ever growing 'queue' as well as ensuring we were speaking to interviewees from those London institutions close to the Queen's heart.

We were able to celebrate much in 2022, and certainly showcased the best of women's sport - focusing on the London Lionesses who helped clinch the Euro title in the summer of 2022.

Innovations/achievements:

ITV News London presenter Charlene White was shortlisted in the Royal Television Society 'Presenter of the year' category in February 2022. Our reporter Sam Holder was also named the winner of the 'Sandford St Martin award' – an award focusing on religious and ethical subjects in Journalism. Sam was crowned winner after his reports on the rise of antisemitism in the capital.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Our diversity panel met 4 times throughout 2022, and we added new members to our cohort in this period, ensuring we were reflecting the diverse make-up of the capital with new members from the LGBTQ+ community. Two new ITV trainees began with ITV News London in 2022. In terms of our contributors, ITV News London always achieved between 30 and 40% representation on screen each month in 2022.

Focus for 2023:

Crossrail opening and the key sporting events in the capital - particularly the involvement of the London players in the Lioness 2022 Euro campaign.

Meridian

Key stories in 2022:

ITV News Meridian reported national and international stories, through a local lens including events like the war in Ukraine and the death of the Queen. We spoke to host families getting ready to welcome refugees and reported on the many events held to collect aid and show solidarity with Ukraine. We reflected the grief of the nation when the Queen died but also celebrated her life, from her connections with places like Windsor and Portsmouth, to the hundreds of visits Queen Elizabeth made to the region during her reign. ITV News Meridian marked the Monarch's death and her funeral, with special programmes.

ITV Meridian South East:

- The long-awaited *Kirkup* report into baby deaths at hospitals under East Kent Hospitals trust was released and became the focus of extended coverage on air and online.
- In 2022 migrants continued to cross The English Channel in small boats and on December 14th news broke that a number of people had lost their lives when the boat they were in started sinking. Our reporter was live in Dover with the latest information.
- There was disruption for road users when *Just Stop Oil* protestors blocked parts of the M25, to highlight climate change.
- In July the Port of Dover declared a 'critical incident' when cross channel holiday makers found themselves waiting up to six hours to board ferries because of delays at border control.

ITV Meridian South:

- ITV News Meridian reported on the frustration by local people after their GP surgery in Cosham, Hampshire closed impacting 9,000 patients.
- 7 years after 11 men died when a plane crashed during an air show in Shoreham, the inquest finally got underway. The judge ruled the victims were unlawfully killed and we spoke to some of the families, who had waited years for answers.
- We reported on extreme weather events, like when storm Eunice hit the region in February and the summer heatwave that saw temperatures into the 30's in July.

ITV Meridian Thames Valley:

- In 2022 two businesses were on trial after a barrier at a clothing store in Reading fell and killed a 10- year-old boy, Kayden Reddick. TopShop and Arcadia Group were fined a million pounds after being found guilty of Health and Safety failures.
- In 2022 Hakeem Kigundu was jailed for life, after two men died when he set fire to a block of flats in Reading.
- In Oxfordshire people were left with limited supplies of water for days, schools had to close and travel was disrupted when a water main burst and flooded a major road.
- There were dramatic scenes in Wokingham after a sewage tanker collapsed into a sinkhole. The road was closed for months disrupting life for local people and businesses.

Innovations/achievements:

In 2022 our on-screen journalists were trained on a new editing system, Adobe Premiere Pro. This enabled them to produce more complicated reports because of the tools' creative features, effects and graphics.

Improving ITV Meridian's website has been a real focus for the team this year and our viewing figures have increased considerably. In 2021 we had around half a million viewers visiting the website per month. By the end of 2022 we were regularly hitting 4 million page views.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Off-screen: Our two regional diversity panels continued to meet quarterly to discuss story ideas and our content. As our critical friends they provided feedback on our programmes. They also assisted us in finding a diverse range of contributors and contacts to enrich our storytelling.

In 2022 we launched the ITV News Communities Project, designed to build contacts and links to communities from under-represented groups in the regions.

This year working groups have been looking at two new Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, a virtual work experience programme and a School's Outreach Programme. Both are designed to give an insight into the different kinds of careers available at ITV News. We have run a series of successful pilots and the initiatives are on track to launch in 2023.

On-screen: Telling stories that are reflective of all the communities that live and work in the south continues to be a focus for all journalists and producers. We have also commissioned reports for key calendar events including Black History month, South Asian Heritage Month and Disability Awareness Month.

- For Black History Month, we told viewers about a new exhibition of work by black artists in Sussex and interviewed a black GP calling for more research to be done into why black women are more likely to die in childbirth than white women.
- For South Asian Heritage Month, we went behind the scenes of Europe's largest Gurdwara in Eastbourne and informed viewers of a new digitised archive making it easier for Indian and Pakistani families to trace what happened to their relatives in World War One.
- We broadcast a series of special reports around disability in 2022, from the impact of the cost of living on those with a disability to new research that showed half of families with disabled children can't access their local playground.

Public input:

Viewers engage with our content through our social media channels and on some topics 'viewer views' are read out to present a range of opinions. We share details of how to contact us every day to encourage public input. We read out our dedicated viewer telephone line number, and give details of our news email address. Vox pops are still widely used to gauge public opinion on local issues.

Media literacy:

The Meridian programme directs viewers towards our website where they can find extended versions of interviews, explainers on certain topics and insight and analysis articles from experts in fields like politics and social affairs.

Focus for 2023:

ITV News Meridian will cover the King's Coronation and the events taking place across the region to mark the occasion.

We will continue to cover climate action initiatives, like plans to expand the Rampion wind farm off the Sussex coast.

We will update viewers on major infrastructure stories from the high-speed rail line HS2, to planned Ultra Low Emissions zones for outer London areas.

We will report on economic stories such as the new film studio being built in Shinfield, Reading.

[Tyne Tees](#)

Key stories in 2022:

Along with other news services, ITV News Tyne Tees reported on the death of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022, detailing the visits she made to the region during her reign and what she had meant to the people of the North East and North Yorkshire.

People in the area reacted with compassion and more tangible support to the year's other big national news story - the war in Ukraine. There was an amazing grassroots response with collections and the transport of donations for Ukrainian refugees, and many volunteered to take refugees into their homes in the Tyne Tees region. At the same time, we continued to cover the ongoing cost of living crisis, focussing on how people were coping as energy and fuel costs rose.

In November an independent investigation identified 120 failings in the care of three teenage girls who died within months of each other at hospitals run by the biggest mental health trust in the North East. Tyne Tees dedicated a special programme to the damning report from the investigation, speaking to the parents of the girls and holding the Trust to account for its failings.

In May, a Sunday Times investigation revealed claims that North East Ambulance Service had covered up details of patient deaths where paramedics had made mistakes. We followed up this story, interviewing families affected, a whistleblower and the ambulance service. In June, Health Secretary Sajid Javid said there would be an independent review.

ITV Tyne Tees travelled to Cyprus to cover the trial of David Hunter, a former Northumberland miner, who was charged with murdering his wife. His defence was to rest on it being a mercy killing, done at her request as she was in so much pain from the cancer she was suffering. The trial would conclude in 2023.

Bird flu decimated the bird population on the Farne Islands, a major sanctuary for seabirds including puffins, guillemots and kittiwakes. Thousands of birds on the islands, off the coast of Northumberland, died as the outbreak took hold. The National Trust, which cares for the islands, was forced to quarantine the area to prevent further deaths, although this in turn harmed the local tourist trade.

The programme covered a government report that concluded that the death of thousands of crustaceans off the coast in the region had probably been caused by a naturally-occurring algal bloom. This was disputed by many local fishermen and campaigners who believed it to have been caused by dredging of the River Tees.

Innovations/achievements:

ITV Tyne Tees won the local RTS Best News Programme of the Year for its 2022 coverage along with Best Presenter, the Outstanding Journalism Award, and the Sport Award.

Diversity and Inclusion:

The ITV News Tyne Tees Diversity Panel continued to meet during 2022. 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.

Public input:

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.

Media literacy:

Throughout the year members of the team mentored young people or gave talks to school pupils or university students. In doing these, we considered diversity and inclusion as key reasons for agreeing to requests. We took a number of young people into our newsroom throughout the year as part of our work experience scheme, and also participated in a wider ITV News virtual work experience programme.

Focus for 2023:

- The increase in knife crime in the North East
- Attempts to halt drugs crime on Teesside
- The Government's levelling up policy for the North
- Great North Run
- Newcastle United's hopes of playing in the Champions League

West Country

Key stories in 2022:

The death of the Queen in September 2022 was the biggest single news story of the year. It dominated our on screen and Digital output from September 8th, through to the day after her funeral. From tearful vox pops with visitors at Gloucester Cathedral the day after her death, to those who travelled up to London to pay their respects to the monarch as she lay in state, our coverage was dominated by the stories of people across our region whose lives had been touched by the Queen. The West Country has many links to the Royal family, with the new King's country home at Highgrove, near Tetbury, and the estate of the Duchy of Cornwall covering huge areas across Cornwall. There is also Poundbury in Dorset, a town whose architecture the new King helped to shape. All these links were reflected during that period of mourning and the rest of the year.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia had a huge impact on our programmes throughout the year. There was a huge outpouring of sympathy for the people of Ukraine, with humanitarian missions across the region to supply aid to the many people left homeless by the war. There were also the stories of those in our region waiting for news of their loved ones in Ukraine and those people across the region who opened their homes to refugees under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Another recurring story in 2022 was the ongoing problems with the region's ambulance service. There were many stories about patients waiting too long after calling 999, with one woman in Yate describing her anguish at waiting 11 hours for an ambulance to treat her dying husband. The handover of patients to hospitals was also a regular feature with long queues of ambulances building up outside many of our hospitals, including Gloucestershire Royal and The Royal Cornwall Hospital.

The pressure on the housing market was another theme in our programmes. In Cornwall a lack of affordable housing for rent has had a huge impact, with thousands on the council

waiting list, and many people living in hotels and holiday parks. With second homes remaining empty for long periods of the year there was a growing chorus of voices for action to support local people struggling to find homes.

That situation was only exaggerated by the cost of living crisis - another consistent theme of our coverage throughout the year. With household energy bills rising and many homeowners in our region being reliant on heating oil, the impact was wide and put increased pressure on many food banks.

The summer proved one of the driest in years and our region was moved into Drought status. Its impact was huge with arable farming impacted, river banks drying up and hosepipe bans introduced.

The safety of residents in Bristol's tower blocks was brought into sharp focus in September after a top floor fire which claimed the life of one man. There was serious concern among residents about safety, and one woman refused to move back into the block on the grounds she was traumatised at losing a friend and the building was unsafe. Another fire was reported in a separate block a month later, which led to three people being treated in hospital. In this case it was found flammable cladding had contributed to the spread of the fire. We regularly highlighted these issues through interviews with residents, and ultimately the council was forced to invest £100 million on improved safety measures at blocks across the city.

The aftermath of two appalling crimes in Plymouth remained in the public consciousness throughout the year. In May, Cody Ackland was jailed for life for the murder of teenager Bobbi-Anne McLeod, while the relatives of those killed in the Plymouth shootings were left waiting for answers about how the man who carried out the shootings could have been given a firearms licence after previously assaulting two youths.

During the latter half of the year there was growing excitement in Cornwall about the Duchy hosting the UK's first ever space launch. We extensively previewed the launch from Newquay Airport which was ultimately delayed until the start of 2023.

As always, we reflected on the challenges facing the tourism industry in the South West. For one of those businesses 2022 was a particularly poignant year. After 186 years in the same location Bristol Zoo moved from its historic home to a new site, resulting in considerable upheaval for hundreds of animals and their keepers. We carried a week-long series of items on this logistical challenge, while reflecting the great love for one of the city's oldest tourist attractions as it embarked on a new journey.

Innovations/achievements:

We said goodbye to our satellite truck in 2022 and in its place received a News Production Vehicle, giving us much more flexibility out on the road. Money for this investment came through the £33 million roll out of new technology across ITV Nations and Regions. The new vehicle comes with a Live U 800, and is reliant on internet capacity rather than satellite technology. It also offers us a comfortable and secure edit space where our crews and reporters can work out on location, cutting a VT and then being live into their pieces.

Our reporter Robert Murphy won a regional RTS in the News or Current Affairs Story category for an exclusive Digital documentary looking at the police operation to track down the Clifton Rapist, a man who had attacked at least seven women in Bristol over two years in the 1970s. This has been viewed around two million times on our website and social media channels.

Throughout the year our Somerset reporter Ben Mcgrail continued to experiment with filming on his Iphone as part of our Innovation Lab project across the Nations and Regions. Ben's feedback was essential in the subsequent rollout of mobile phone technology to crews and reporters.

We also invested in two new 360 degree cameras, giving crews and reporters across both programmes the scope to offer a different perspective in their work.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Our reporters Charlotte Gay and Max Walsh were both put forward to work on an initiative across Nations and Regions - the Diversity and Inclusion Communities Project - to build relationships with communities that might not feel they have a voice on our programmes. Max invested a lot of time in building contacts in the Somali community in Bristol, which produced several pieces, while Charlotte's longer term work was aimed at developing contacts and trust in the travelling community.

After the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston in Bristol city centre in 2020 - a story that went global - 2022 saw the city continue to question many of its very obvious links to the slave trade. Four people accused of pulling down the statue were cleared at the start of the year, and we reported extensively on the council's report on what to do with the statue. We also gained exclusive access to the outgoing leader of the Society of Merchant Venturers, a near 500 year old institution which critics want disbanded because of its links to Edward Colston and the slave trade.

The death of civil rights campaigner Roy Hackett in September was another poignant moment for the city. Roy helped organise the 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott, following the refusal of the city's omnibus company to employ Black or Asian bus crews. This paved the way for the Race Relations Act two years later which made racial discrimination unlawful in public places. Large crowds came out onto the streets of Bristol on the day of Roy's funeral, and we spoke extensively to people across the city about his legacy. At the end of the year the surviving members of the boycott were awarded the Freedom of the City.

Our two Diversity and Inclusion panels (East and West) continued to meet on a quarterly basis, with meetings being held in person and online for the first time since the pandemic. We also held a joint panel meeting in Bristol, giving everyone on the panel the chance to go behind the scenes and meet the whole team. On several occasions we asked our panel members to join our debriefs and review our programmes.

We continued to promote Black History Month and South Asian Heritage Month. One of our strongest interviews in BHM was with the first female black police officer to work with Avon and Somerset Police. She described her experience of racism in the force during the 1980s, and highlighted the ongoing issues around representation in the police.

Like every region we contributed to the Virtual Work Experience Days, giving young people from many different communities an insight into working in broadcasting.

In 2021 we recruited an Apprentice into our team of Production Specialists through a programme designed to develop new talent from many different backgrounds. Freddie, who joined us as a school leaver in 2021, finished his Apprenticeship in 2022 and secured a staff role in our technical team.

Public input:

We had record levels of interaction with our viewers and readers, with 29 million page views on our website. Seven million of those views came to us via social media. We had 185,000 followers on Facebook, 96,000 on Twitter and 18,000 on Instagram. We regularly used Facebook to canvas views on big talking points, and then used them on the programme. This, in turn, generated stories for us to follow up. Our weather forecaster Charlie Powell has a nightly slot either side of his forecast where he uses pictures sent in by our viewers.

Media literacy:

Our team embraced a new initiative aimed at telling more young people about a career in broadcasting. The Schools Presentation allowed anyone at ITV West Country (any other region) to go into a school or college and explain what we do with a ready-made presentation. It was enthusiastically received by both our journalists and technical team with a number of visits taking place towards the end of the year.

We set up a partnership with the University of Gloucestershire to offer work experience to students on their broadcasting degree course. This resulted in us offering a contract to one of their promising students. We sent a team to an RTS Futures event in November aimed at giving young people an idea of what it is like to work in broadcasting. We also offered work experience to a number of young people attending local colleges, as well as helping to host some virtual careers days.

When we explore big issues on our programmes we always point our audience towards the website where they can find additional relevant information.

Focus for 2023:

- The ongoing impact of the cost of living crisis.
- The inquest into the mass shooting in Plymouth.
- How the West Country is being impacted by climate change and rising sea levels.
- Sea and river pollution, particularly in Cornwall and Devon where pressure groups say water quality is suffering because of sewage discharges into the sea.
- Investment in levelling up - with critics claiming the West Country is suffering from chronic underfunding.
- Major events, including the Bristol Balloon Fiesta, Glastonbury and the county shows.

ENDS
