

21 February 2018

Dear Siân

News and current affairs quotas for BBC Radio Wales

I would like to correct something that was said at the Committee last week. Lee Waters AM stated that Ofcom had reduced the obligations on BBC Radio Wales to broadcast only 32 hours of news and current affairs programming from the previous target of 53 hours three years ago.

The only reference I can find to 53 hours is in the BBC Trust's service review, where it appears as the figure for news and current affairs output on Radio Wales in 2015/16 prior to the introduction of a schedule change in February 2016 which reduced the projected annual average to 40 hours a week. There was never a target of 53 hours set by the BBC Trust and it was certainly not a requirement set by Ofcom at any time.

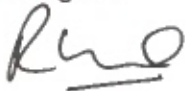
This is the first year that Ofcom has published an Operating Licence for the BBC and the requirement on BBC Wales to produce 32 hours of programming is identical to the requirement last set by the BBC Trust in its service licence issued in August 2016. When considering at what level to set the requirement Ofcom was mindful of the fact that the Trust had only just increased all of its nations radio news and current affairs targets as an outcome of its 2016 service review – "Each nations' radio station has consistently outperformed its commitment for hours of news and current affairs output so the Trust has increased the level of these conditions to reflect more recent levels"

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/our_work/services/nations_services

The quota for news and current affairs on Radio Wales was increased from 24 to 32 hours by the BBC Trust.

I trust that the Committee's report in due course will contain the correct details.

Best regards



Rhodri Williams

Director, Wales