

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the structure change?

From the announcement today there will be a process in which existing commissioning editors will be able to apply for the new jobs. The commissioning contacts in each subgenre will remain the same until the posts are filled. We are aiming to fill the posts quickly to ensure continuity and clarity.

Who do I send ideas to from now on?

You should send ideas to the existing commissioner in the subgenre. We'll notify you of changes via the indie newsletter and commissioning website. You can sign up for the newsletter here (link to www.bbc.co.uk/commissioning/newsletter)

What about current affairs and daytime factual?

The Current affairs and Daytime genres are unaffected by these changes

What happens to the Executive Producers in Knowledge?

The current executive producers for independents remain in post, and will continue to work with independents in developing ideas and executive producing projects.

What about projects that are currently being exec'd or managed by a commissioning editor?

Existing projects/developments will remain with the commissioner and any changes will be notified to you.

How do the out of London factual commissioning execs fit in, and who do they answer to?

The Factual commissioning execs in the nations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will report to individual Commissioning Editors on a project by project basis. In relation to their strategic responsibilities, they will report to the Head of Knowledge Commissioning and to the Head of Programmes in the Nation where they are based.

How will you be filling these new positions?

In the first instance the existing commissioning editors, plus the Head of Religion TV will all be able to apply for one or more roles. We will recruit the best people for each role and, if there are any vacant positions after this round, we will then open up recruitment to anyone who wishes to apply.

How will this help multiplatform?

The existing multiplatform commissioning executives will remain. Single commissioner ownership of the new subgenre slates will make full multiplatform integration easier to achieve.

Who will champion in-house/indies?

The new role of Head of Knowledge Commissioning will be responsible for overseeing the health of the in-house and independent sectors and for developing supply strategies for both.

Will all posts be based in London?

No, the Religion role will be based in Manchester.

How will this affect the WOCC?

As used to happen, the individual commissioning editors will oversee the WOCC for their respective subgenres. Once they have spent the allocated in-house and independent slates they can decide which is the best idea to spend the WOCC money on. This means it no longer has to go to a third party (George Entwistle) to make the decision, so it should become quicker and more efficient.

But how will you ensure that a commissioner is not biased?

The new Knowledge system works on exactly the same lines as Fiction and Entertainment commissioning – where no question of bias has arisen. That's because TV commissioners just want the best ideas. It's not in anybody's interest to be biased. But they will be supervised by the Head of Knowledge Commissioning to ensure they're operating the WOCC in an open and responsible manner.

How do you ensure that there's no conflict of interest with the religion role?

The Religion commissioner will have a dedicated indie-facing executive producer who will deal solely with indies and be based in London. There will also be a creative lead for in-house religion production who will handle day-to-day management of production team in Manchester/Salford, to mitigate any potential conflict of interest.