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Channel 4 - a change of ownership?



Summary

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Summary

Channel 4 is a publicly owned, non-profit organisation that invests its income back into commissioning content. It receives no public money and is funded entirely through its commercial activity.

On 6 July 2021, the Government launched a [consultation](#) on the future of Channel 4. In a [Written Ministerial Statement](#), Oliver Dowden, the then Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, gave this context:

Since its creation almost 40 years ago by a Conservative Government, Channel 4 has delivered on its remit, aims and objectives. But, in that time, the broadcasting landscape has changed beyond recognition, and continues to change apace.

Increased global competition, changing audience habits, the decline of linear advertising revenue and a wave of consolidation in the sector all pose challenges.

The consultation therefore asks for views and evidence on what ownership model and remit will best support Channel 4 to thrive for another 40 years and beyond.¹

The Government's preferred option is for a change to private ownership. According to the Government, this would give Channel 4 "greater access to new strategic and investment opportunities, allowing it to compete effectively in a more agile fashion and ensuring it has the best chance of a successful and sustainable future".²

The consultation, which closed on 14 September 2021, sought respondents' views on:

- whether they agree that there are challenges in the current TV broadcasting market that present barriers to a sustainable Channel 4 in public ownership.
- whether a continued Channel 4, with a continued public service broadcasting licence and remit, would be better placed to deliver sustainably against the government's aims for public service broadcasting if it was outside public ownership.

¹ Written Ministerial Statement, [Channel 4: Future Ownership Consultation](#), HCWS153, 6 July 2021

² Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport website, [Consultation on a change of ownership of Channel 4 Television Corporation](#) [accessed 15 September 2021]

- what the economic, social and cultural costs and benefits might be to moving Channel 4 out of public ownership.³

The consultation is part of the Government's wider review of public service broadcasting, alongside Ofcom's own review. The DCMS intends to publish a Broadcasting White Paper in autumn 2021.⁴

This Library Paper gives background to the consultation as well as a selection of comment.

³ Ibid

⁴ [DCMS Written Statement \[HCWS113\] on broadcasting policy](#), 23 June 2021

1 Background

Channel 4 is one of the UK's public service broadcasters.⁵ It is a publicly owned, non-profit organisation that invests its income back into commissioning content. It receives no public money and is funded entirely through its commercial activity. Most of its income comes from TV and online advertising. Channel 4 does not produce its own programmes, but commissions content from over 300 independent production companies.

The public service remit of Channel 4 is set out in section 265(3) of the Communications Act 2003 and requires “the provision of a broad range of high quality and diverse programming which, in particular -

- (a) demonstrates innovation, experiment and creativity in the form and content of programmes;
- (b) appeals to the tastes and interests of a culturally diverse society;
- (c) makes a significant contribution to meeting the need for the licensed public service channels to include programmes of an educational nature and other programmes of educative value; and
- (d) exhibits a distinctive character.

In addition to the main Channel 4 service, the Channel Four Group operates pay channels, including the E4 entertainment channel, E4+1, and three film channels. The Film Four division produces and co-produces feature films for the UK and global markets. Over three-quarters of the UK's population watch Channel 4 services during an average week.⁶

According to its [2020 Annual Report](#), Channel 4 had a “record financial surplus of £74 million”. Its revenues were “resilient” and were down only 5% on 2019.⁷ The report also noted that Channel 4's “model enables us to adapt quickly to how our environment is changing and respond to market challenges head-on”.⁸

On 22 June 2021, when [giving evidence](#) to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Alex Mahon, Channel Four's Chief Executive, said that the

⁵ The UK's public service broadcasters (PSBs) are: BBC One and BBC Two, Channel 3 (licensed by ITV in England, STV in Scotland and UTV in Northern Ireland), Channel 4, Channel 5 and S4C. For further detail on PSB, see the House of Lords Communications Committee report, [Public service broadcasting: as vital as ever](#) (HL Paper 16), November 2019; Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [The future of public service broadcasting](#) (HC 156), March 2021

⁶ [Channel 4 website - About Channel 4](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) [accessed 15 September 2021]

⁷ [Channel Four Television Corporation Report and Financial Statements 2020](#), p5

⁸ Ibid, p22

organisation was “in very robust health both financially and creatively in delivering our remit”.⁹

Future4 strategy

In November 2020, Channel 4 launched a [five-year strategy](#) called Future4. This aims to double All 4 viewing and to deliver 30% of total revenues from digital advertising and 10% from non-advertising. The strategy also sets out a “new clearly articulated purpose for Channel 4” – to create change through entertainment. This purpose is accompanied by three statements articulating the organisation’s vision:

- represent unheard voices.
- challenge with purpose.
- reinvent entertainment.

The strategy has four pillars:

- prioritise digital growth over linear ratings.
- put viewers at the heart of decision making.
- diversify new revenue streams to underpin sustainability.
- focus on strategic partnerships to compete more effectively.¹⁰

Alex Mahon explained the strategy further in a Channel 4 [news release](#):

Since it was founded, Channel 4 has invested over £11bn in original British television and we have always been different from other media companies in the way we play our role in that thriving economy. But, as we emerge from this pandemic, I believe the need has never been greater for a public service broadcaster like ours: one that can represent the unheard in our society, can challenge misinformation, and can create change through entertainment for all UK viewers and for our creative sector.

Our ongoing focus is to continue to deliver our purpose and remit with meaningful scale and impact and I’m incredibly proud that we have already moved our viewing and our advertising revenues to digital at a faster rate than our competitors. We want to push this even further still, and our new Future4 strategy is about underpinning our commercial sustainability and ensuring that we have a clear plan to transform ourselves into a digital public service

⁹ Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Oral evidence: The work of Channel 4](#), HC 274, response to Q2

¹⁰ [“Channel 4 sets out path to digital future with new strategy: Future4”](#), Channel Four news release, 26 November 2020

media organisation that delivers across the whole of the UK for the future.¹¹

1.1

A change of ownership?

In 2016, a House of Lords Committee published a [report](#) on the possible privatisation of Channel 4.

A Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport [consultation](#) on the future ownership of Channel 4 ran from 6 July 2021 to 14 September 2021.

Lords Communications Committee report (July 2016)

In July 2016, the House of Lords Communications Committee published a [report](#) looking at a privatised future for Channel 4. The inquiry was prompted by press reports that the Government at the time was considering this as an option for Channel 4.¹² The Committee's report examined:

- the financial sustainability of Channel 4 under its current model.
- the impact of privatisation on content.
- the impact of privatisation on the creative landscape.
- alternative ownership options – such as mutualisation, partnership/merger, or minority private investment.

The Committee concluded that the risks of privatisation outweighed any potential benefits:

...some of the important content that C4C produces in news, current affairs and film would be at risk if the organisation was privatised and had to operate in a more commercially focussed environment. C4C's roles in commissioning programmes from smaller production companies and from outside London would both be threatened by a privatisation deal.

We are concerned that, notwithstanding assurances given at the point of sale, a private owner may seek to dilute C4C's public service remit in future, in order to maximise profit. We draw attention to the risk involved in a sale: once a company has passed into private

¹¹ [“Channel 4 sets out path to digital future with new strategy: Future4”](#), Channel Four news release, 26 November 2020

¹² House of Lords Communications Committee, [A privatised future for Channel 4?](#), HL Paper 17, July 2016, summary and page 12. The report referred (footnote 12 on p12) to: [“Government may privatise Channel 4, document reveals”](#), Guardian, 24 September 2015

ownership—particularly, as is likely, with a C4C sale, into overseas’ ownership—there is no mechanism to control or influence its fate.

We heard little evidence to suggest that C4C itself or the creative industries would benefit from full or part privatisation. The risks appear to outweigh any potential benefits. Key questions about the future of C4C remain unanswered. If privatisation in any part is proposed by the Government we would expect to see a full, public consultation on the evidence for a change in the ownership model of C4C. However it is our clear preference that the status quo be maintained as there are many more risks than benefits involved in privatisation.¹³

Government response

In her March 2017 [response](#) to the Committee’s report, the then Secretary of State, Karen Bradley, said that “Channel 4’s public service model and remit, which are so vital to the continued strength of the UK’s broadcasting ecology, would not be best served by privatisation”.¹⁴

DCMS consultation on potential change of ownership (July 2021)

On 6 July 2021, the DCMS launched a [consultation](#) on the future of Channel 4. According to the Government, the broadcasting landscape had “changed beyond recognition” since Channel 4 began in 1982:

...First came commercial satellite TV and then digital terrestrial TV, pushing channel numbers into the hundreds. Then video-on-demand services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney+ made their way onto our screens, changing everything. We now live in a world of smart TVs and streaming sticks, catch-up and on-demand.

Our public service broadcasters — both publicly and commercially funded — continue to be a vital part of this mixed ecology, contributing hugely important social, cultural and economic benefits. Channel 4 itself has done an excellent job in delivering its remit and more recently in managing the uncertainty in the market over the last few years. It has advanced its digital strategy, whilst supporting the independent production sector in the UK, contributing to the economies of our nations and regions, and creating diverse and risk-taking content.

But this is 2021, not 1982 — and the broadcasting landscape has changed beyond recognition. Increased global competition and changing audience habits pose challenges to linear TV broadcasters,

¹³ House of Lords Communications Committee, [A privatised future for Channel 4?](#), p3

¹⁴ DCMS, [Government response to Lords Communications Committee report on the future of Channel 4](#), 29 March 2017

including Channel 4. Its current reliance on advertising and events-driven sponsorship activities expose it to market fluctuations and the decline in linear TV advertising spend relative to digital. We are also seeing a wave of consolidation that may make the challenges for a publicly owned Channel 4 more pronounced.

We want to make sure Channel 4 thrives for another four decades...¹⁵

The Government's view, to be tested through the consultation, is for a change to private ownership:

[This] would be the best means of ensuring its future success and sustainability as a public service broadcaster and its continued contribution to the UK's creative industries. There are constraints that come with public ownership, and a new owner could bring access and benefits, including access to capital, to strategic partnerships and to the international markets. Private investment would mean more content, and more jobs.¹⁶

The consultation, which closed on 14 September 2021, sought respondents' views on:

- whether they agree that there are challenges in the current TV broadcasting market that present barriers to a sustainable Channel 4 in public ownership.
- whether a continued Channel 4, with a continued public service broadcasting licence and remit, would be better placed to deliver sustainably against the government's aims for public service broadcasting if it was outside public ownership.
- what the economic, social and cultural costs and benefits might be to moving Channel 4 out of public ownership.¹⁷

The consultation is part of the Government's wider review of public service broadcasting, alongside Ofcom's own review. The DCMS intends to publish a Broadcasting White Paper in autumn 2021.¹⁸

What's changed since 2016?

As noted above, in its 2016 report, the Lords Communications Committee concluded that the risks of privatising Channel 4 appeared "to outweigh any potential benefits". In response, the then Secretary of State, Karen Bradley, said that Channel 4's public service remit "would not be best served by privatisation". On 13 May 2021, when [giving evidence](#) to the DCMS Committee,

¹⁵ DCMS, [Consultation on a potential change of ownership of Channel 4 Television Corporation](#), July 2021

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ [DCMS Written Statement \[HCWS113\] on broadcasting policy](#), 23 June 2021

Oliver Dowden, the then Secretary of State, was asked what had changed since then. Mr Dowden replied:

...You asked what has changed in the past five years. The extent to which viewing habits are now dominated by video on demand, particularly post-pandemic. Netflix was not really a major player in the UK market five years ago. Now it is a hugely important player, for example, in commissioning and so on

If you look at the kinds of players that are rapidly entering the market, Disney is making huge inroads into the market. If you look at the consumption patterns of Channel 4 itself, the extent to which its consumption is on digital media rather than normal linear, I think certainly by the end of this decade, if not sooner, the amount of Channel 4 that is consumed on demand via the digital platform will exceed what is consumed via the linear platform. It is perfectly responsible for the Government to look at the best way of sustaining the strengths of an organisation like Channel 4 and see the best way for it to be modelled, for example its ability to access capital markets and so on.¹⁹

Alex Mahon and Charles Gurassa (Channel 4 Chair) were questioned about the possible privatisation of Channel 4 when they [gave evidence](#) to the DCMS Committee on 22 June 2021.²⁰ Kevin Brennan MP asked what had changed since the 2016 Lords Committee report. Alex Mahon said:

Probably there are a couple of things that have changed...One is that the digital landscape has become more dangerous in terms of social media, so the importance of public service content has probably become higher, which is maybe the opposite of what we would have thought five years ago, but that sort of trusted, objective, fact-checked requirement for news is more important than ever before and certain kinds of content.

The other is there is a lot of competition, but it is not making British content owned by British companies, and perhaps the other thing is the export value of those companies. We do a lot for British companies that send their content abroad. That gives us soft power as a country...Our role in ensuring that we allow that stuff to be made and get it exported is perhaps even more important than it was.²¹

Mr Brennan also asked:

¹⁹ Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Oral evidence: The Work of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#), HC 44, 13 May 2021, response to Q71

²⁰ Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Oral evidence: The work of Channel 4](#), HC 274, 22 June 2021, Qs1-7 and Qs53-68

²¹ Ibid, response to Q67

Would it be fair to say that both of you are saying there is no new compelling argument for privatisation that has arisen in the last five and a half years that makes it any more of a sensible path to take than it was previously?...

Alex Mahon replied: “Not that I have seen at this stage, but I look forward to seeing any analysis”.²²

Reaction to the consultation

Some of the reaction to the consultation has raised concerns similar to those of the Lords Committee in 2016 – i.e. that privatisation could put at risk some of Channel 4’s content, dilute its public service remit, and negatively impact on the wider media landscape.

There have also been claims that privatisation is ideologically and politically motivated. For example, Paul Siegert from the National Union of Journalists has said:

It’s hard to see any justification for privatising Channel Four other than ideology. Channel 4 has achieved what it was asked to do and has proved a hit with viewers. So, if it isn’t broke, why is the government proposing the fix of privatising it? Four years ago, the government said it would continue to be owned by the public and it should honour that promise.²³

In a Commons [debate](#) of 21 July 2021 on the Government’s plans, Dame Angela Eagle also claimed that “Our national discourse is being drained of different voices as a deliberate act of political ideology”.²⁴ John Whittingdale responded for the Government:

I want to make it absolutely clear that there is no political agenda attached to this. I am completely committed to an independent Channel 4, and I welcome the fact that it has a questioning news programme. This is not motivated in any way by a political agenda or ideology. It is about sustaining Channel 4 and making sure that it has a viable future...²⁵

What has Channel 4 said?

On 20 July 2021, the Guardian [reported](#) that Charles Gurassa had criticised the Government’s plans in a letter to the Secretary of State. According to the Guardian, Mr Gurassa wrote:

²² Ibid, Q68

²³ National Union of Journalists, [NUJ response to the UK government’s White Paper on broadcasting and privatisation of Channel 4](#), 30 June 2021, p2

²⁴ [HC Deb 21 July 2021 c370WH](#)

²⁵ [HC Deb 21 July 2021 c390WH](#)

The lack of any detailed analysis, evidence or impact assessment leaves us as a board deeply concerned given our statutory responsibility to deliver Channel 4's remit.

Indeed, we have serious concerns that the consequences will be very harmful, both to the UK's creative economy and to the choice and breadth of distinctive British-made content available to UK audiences.

We are deeply concerned with the unsubstantiated assertion that a sale of Channel 4 is in the national interest.

Without a transparent assessment of the implications of such a decision, the government is in danger of sleepwalking into the irreversible and risky sale of an important, successful and much-loved British institution.²⁶

Further comment and related material is given in the remaining sections of this Paper.

²⁶ [“Channel 4 chair criticises government’s ‘harmful’ privatisation plan”](#), Guardian, 21 July 2021

2 Further reading

2.1 Parliamentary

A selection of parliamentary material is set out in this section. Further questions and debates on Channel 4 can be retrieved [from the parliamentary database](#).

Debates and Oral Questions

[Channel 4: Privatisation](#)

HC Deb cc367-91WH, 21 July 2021

[Channel 4: Funding and Governance](#)

HL Deb cc925-28, 1 July 2021

[Public Service Broadcasting \(Communications and Digital Committee Report\)](#)

HL Deb cc1114-1155, 27 May 2021

[Channel 4: Privatisation \(Communications Committee Report\)](#)

HL Deb cc514-537, 17 October 2017

[Channel 4](#)

HL Deb cc592-94, 29 March 2017

[Channel 4](#)

HC Deb cc613-14, 9 February 2017

Written Parliamentary Questions

[Channel 4: Young People](#)

Asked by: Helen Grant

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to ensure that under a potential change in ownership model Channel 4 would maintain its focus on producing content that appeals to young people.

Answering member: John Whittingdale | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Channel 4's current remit and obligations are largely based on the key building blocks for public service broadcasting as set out in the 2003 Communications Act, with further changes made in the 2010 Digital Economy Act. The Government has made clear in the consultation that it intends to preserve Channel 4's PSB remit.

The consultation also makes clear that the Government sees the value delivered to society through the obligations placed on Channel 4 to broadcast content appealing to young and diverse audiences. Indeed, we would expect the channel's success with younger audiences to be something particularly appealing to potential buyers.

The Government is minded to retain such obligations, though it will be important to ensure its remit does not prohibit Channel 4's future sustainability and its ability to broadcast relevant and quality content given the developments in the media landscape – with young audiences increasingly likely to consume content on non-linear platforms such as VoD services for example.

We are seeking views on the possible modernisation of Channel 4's remit and obligations through the consultation.

13 Sep 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | UIN 41838

Date tabled: 03 Sep 2021 | **Date answered:** 13 Sep 2021

[Channel Four: Arts](#)

Asked by: Helen Grant

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking in relation to securing the contribution that Channel 4 makes to the UK's creative economy through its (a) regional offices and employees, (b) 50 per cent commissioning spend outside of London and (c) investment in skills and apprenticeships across the country.

Answering member: John Whittingdale | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

We value Channel 4's contribution to the UK's creative economy, and the consultation clearly states that we consider a continued and renewed commitment to it will be appropriate to any potential change of ownership.

We have also been clear that whatever Ministers decide, Channel 4 will continue to have a Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) remit. Currently all national PSBs, including those that are privately owned, have quotas for content outside of the M25.

13 Sep 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | UIN 41836

Date tabled: 03 Sep 2021 | **Date answered:** 13 Sep 2021

[Channel 4](#)

Asked by: Helen Grant

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made of delivering the Government's objectives for Channel 4 by increasing the broadcaster's investment and commissioning more content under the corporation's current ownership model.

Answering member: John Whittingdale | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The government is consulting on whether an alternative ownership model for Channel 4 (but one where it retains a public service remit) may be better for the broadcaster, and better for the country.

We want Channel 4 to continue to be a public service broadcaster, and we want it to and continue to contribute socially, economically and culturally to life across the UK. But all linear TV broadcasters are facing significant challenges in today's changing media landscape and Channel 4 is uniquely constrained in its ability to meet these challenges while it remains under

public ownership - particularly because its access to capital and ability to pursue strategic partnership opportunities is limited.

Moving Channel 4 into private ownership could allow it to access new capital, take advantage of international opportunities, and create strategic partnerships only available through the private sector.

Consulting on the broadcaster's future is therefore about ensuring that Channel 4 can continue to contribute to the UK's success in public service broadcasting for years to come, and how we ensure its ownership model best supports this aim.

No decisions have been made yet - the government, through its consultation, is seeking evidence from a wide range of stakeholders to inform its policy-making and a final decision on the ownership model of the channel.

13 Sep 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | UIN 41831

Date tabled: 03 Sep 2021 | **Date answered:** 13 Sep 2021

[Channel Four: Privatisation](#)

Asked by: Helen Grant

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made of the potential risk that the privatisation of Channel 4 would lead to the loss of distinctive UK content and a shift towards generic content tailored to an international audience.

Answering member: John Whittingdale | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The government is currently consulting on issues around the channel's publisher-broadcaster restriction, its contribution to levelling up, and its remit.

We will use the responses to our consultation, and evidence received through it, to inform our decision-making. As such, it would not be appropriate for us to carry out an impact assessment until we have considered the responses and answered the questions set out in the consultation - until then, we do not know what specific impacts we are assessing.

13 Sep 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | UIN 41840

Date tabled: 03 Sep 2021 | **Date answered:** 13 Sep 2021

Channel Four Television: Economic Growth and Employment

Asked by: Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that, irrespective of the outcome of the consultation on the future of Channel 4, the broadcaster will be able to continue to support growth and jobs outside of London.

Answering member: Baroness Barran | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Channel 4 makes an important economic and social contribution across the whole of the UK through its investment in regional production, its national HQ in Leeds, and its creative hubs in Glasgow and Bristol.

Any options we decide to pursue following the public consultation would need to consider how to ensure Channel 4 continues its role in supporting levelling up across the UK.

The Government is seeking views from a broad range of stakeholders to inform our policy making. That is why we published a public consultation on 6 July 2021, which will run for 10 weeks, closing on 14 September 2021.

12 Jul 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL1689

Date tabled: 05 Jul 2021 | **Date for answer:** 19 Jul 2021 | **Date answered:** 12 Jul 2021

Channel Four Television: Privatisation

Asked by: Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they had with the board of Channel 4 about the desirability of privatisation before announcing a review into private ownership of the channel.

Answering member: Baroness Barran | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Government Ministers meet members of the Channel 4 board and executive team regularly to discuss a range of issues.

The government intends to consult on a potential change in ownership of Channel 4 on the basis that an alternative ownership model (but one where it keeps a public service remit) may be better for the broadcaster and its ability to contribute socially, economically and culturally in the decades to come.

The public consultation was published on 06 July 2021. It will run for 10 weeks, closing on 14 September 2021. The Government is seeking views from a broad range of stakeholders to inform its policy making.

09 Jul 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL1624

Date tabled: 01 Jul 2021 | **Date for answer:** 15 Jul 2021 | **Date answered:** 09 Jul 2021

Channel Four Television

Asked by: Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how Channel 4's current (1) ownership model, and (2) commissioning strategy, is affecting its performance as a public service broadcaster.

Answering member: Baroness Barran | **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Channel 4 has delivered on its remit successfully and helped grow the UK's independent production sector. It has also done an excellent job in managing the recent uncertainty in the market. However, the government is concerned that its current public ownership model presents challenges to its ability to grasp opportunities and keep pace in the future.

Further detail regarding the government's assessment is provided in the government's recent publication, "Consultation on a potential change of ownership of the Channel 4 Television Corporation", copies of which have been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

09 Jul 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL1623

Date tabled: 01 Jul 2021 | **Date for answer:** 15 Jul 2021 | **Date answered:** 09 Jul 2021

Committees

[Oral evidence: The work of Channel 4, HC 274](#)

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

22 June 2021

[Oral evidence: The Work of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, HC 44](#)

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

13 May 2021

Channel 4 - a change of ownership?

[Government response to Lords Committee report \(A privatised future for Channel 4?\)](#)

Department for Culture, Media & Sport

29 March 2017

[A privatised future for Channel 4? \(HL Paper 17\)](#)

House of Lords Select Committee on Communications

11 July 2016

2.2

Media and organisations

[“Channel 4 chair criticises government’s ‘harmful’ privatisation plan”](#)

Guardian

21 July 2021

[Channel 4 sale ‘risk to film and TV industry’](#)

Times

14 July 2021

[No Tory should want to privatise Channel Four](#)

Telegraph

8 July 2021

[Channel 4 could make its own programmes if privatised](#)

Guardian

6 July 2021

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[Privatising Channel 4 is cancel culture at its worst](#)

The Times

6 July 2021

[Fighting the Privatisation of Channel 4](#)

Media Reform Coalition

2 July 2021

[Channel 4 privatisation could damage the UK's "entire creative sector"](#)

Design Week

2 July 2021

[Channel 4: Is there value in privatisation?](#)

Open Democracy

1 July 2021

[NUJ briefing on proposed privatisation of Channel 4](#)

National Union of Journalists

30 June 2021

[What the public stand to lose if Channel 4 is privatised](#)

Public Media Alliance

25 June 2021

[Britain proposes—again—to privatise Channel 4](#)

Economist

24 June 2021

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[The Times view on privatising Channel 4: Broadcast Settings](#)

The Times

24 June 2021

[Who will buy Channel 4?](#)

The Week

24 June 2021

[Channel 4: rather than privatising public service media we should be expanding it online](#)

The Conversation

23 June 2021

[Channel 4 privatisation risks pulling the plug on UK production](#)

City A.M.

23 June 2021

[Channel 4 pushes back against privatisation after record results](#)

Financial Times

23 June 2021

[Channel 4 privatisation proposal: 'This could prove irreversible'](#)

Guardian

23 June 2021

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[Channel 4 goes to war over privatisation plan](#)

Telegraph

23 June 2021

[Channel 4 privatisation: How would it work?](#)

Independent

22 June 2021

[Privatisation of Channel 4 must be stopped](#)

National Union of Journalists

18 June 2021

[In defence of PSB truth and impartiality](#)

Royal Television Society

December 2020/January 2021

2.3

Reports

Channel 4, [Emerging better together: Channel 4 Annual Report](#), 22 June 2021

Ofcom, [The future of public service media](#), July 2019

Ernst and Young, [The future of Channel 4 in a changing market environment](#), March 2016

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