BBC Studios Limited

Registered number 04463546

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

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Officers and advisors

Directors

Tom Fussell Tim Davie (resigned 28 August 2020) Mark Linsey (appointed 3 August 2020)

Company secretary

Anthony Corriette

Registered office

1 Television Centre 101 Wood Lane London W12 7FA

Auditor

National Audit Office 157 - 197 Buckingham Palace Road London SW1W 9SP

Contents

- 4 Strategic report
- 6 Directors' report
- 9 Statement of directors' responsibilities
- 10 Independent auditor's report to the members of BBC Studios Limited
- 13 Income statement
- 14 Balance sheet
- 15 Statement of changes in equity
- 16 Notes to the financial statements

Strategic Report

The Directors present their annual report and audited financial statements for BBC Studios Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 101: Reduced Disclosure Framework for all periods presented.

Principal activites

The Company is the holding company for BBC Studios Distribution Limited and BBC Studios Productions Limited, which along with their subsidiaries form the BBC Studios Group. The Company receives dividend income from its subsidiary companies.

Results and dividends

The Company made neither a profit nor a loss during the year (2020: £70.5m). The Directors have not recommend the payment of a dividend (2020: £70.5m).

Overview

The Company has two direct subsidiaries BBC Studios Distribution Limited and BBC Studios Productions Limited.

The principal activity of BBC Studios Distribution Limited, and its subsidiaries, is to invest in content and IP for global distribution and exploitation through content sales, channels and ancillaries.

The principal activity of BBC Studios Productions Limited, and its subsidiaries, is to develop and produce programme content for the BBC, playing a vital role in delivering quality output and creating valuable intellectual property, as well as competing in the open market for commissions across a broad range of genres.

BBC Studios Distribution Limited and BBC Studios Productions Limited, and their subsidiaries, contribute significant returns that are reinvested into the BBC for the benefit of the UK licence fee payer.

These audited financial statements are in relation the Company only, and consolidated financial statements have not been prepared.

The consolidated results of the BBC Studios Group can be found as a separate operating segment within the annual report of its immediate parent, BBC Commercial Holdings Limited.

Strategic report continued

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties are those relating to the underlying performance of the subsidiary companies. These can be found in the financial statements of the subsidiary companies, and in the consolidated annual report of BBC Commercial Holdings Limited.

Section 172 statement

The Directors are aware of their responsibilities to promote the success of the Company in accordance with s172 of the Companies Act 2006.

When making decisions, Directors have regard to the interests of stakeholders relevant to the Company, as an intermediate holding company, as well as the need to maintain a reputation for high standards of business conduct and the long term consequences of decisions.

They also fulfil their responsibilities through the application of BBC Studios Group policies and practices, underpinned by the clear strategy: to develop creative hits, build stronger services and grow major customer partnerships, enabling the best of British content to be seen in the UK and around the world for the benefit of licence fee payers. This is done whilst promoting and protecting the BBC brand and reputation worldwide, according to the commercial criteria as set out in the Charter and Agreement. More details on the strategy of the BBC Studios Group can be found in the Annual Report of the BBC Commercial Holdings Limited.

By order of the Board,

Anthony Corriette
Company Secretary
17 June 2021

DocuSigned by:

Registered Address: 1 Television Centre 101 Wood Lane London W12 7FA

Directors' report

Directors

The Directors, who served during the year and up to the date of this report unless otherwise stated, are as follows:

- Tom Fussell
- Tim Davie (resigned 28 August 2020)
- Mark Linsey (appointed 3 August 2020)

The Company Secretary is Anthony Corriette

Financial instruments

The Company's financial risk management operations are carried out by a BBC Group Treasury function, within parameters defined formally by the policies and procedures manual agreed by the BBC Board.

Directors' interests and indemnities

No Director had any interest in the share capital of the Company throughout the financial year. No rights were granted to subscribe for shares or debentures of the Company to any of the Directors or their immediate families, or exercised by them, during the financial year. Directors' and Officers' liability insurance cover was in place throughout the financial year as appropriate.

Employee participation

The Company participates in a range of approaches in ensuring employee participation and involvement. Employee feedback, thoughts and views are measured and tracked through a range of methods including the pan-BBC survey, which are subsequently used to develop detailed action plans. The Company also has a range of staff leadership and personal development programmes and is committed to fostering constructive relations with our recognised trade unions.

Diversity

Recruiting and developing a diverse workforce that is representative of contemporary British society is central to the modern BBC and to BBC Studios Limited as a subsidiary of the BBC. Creating a diverse workforce is part of the BBC's Diversity Strategy.

This has been developed into a workable framework and mechanisms for systematic action planning and reporting across four key areas:

- corporate strategy and business planning ensuring equality and diversity are part of all strategic decision-making and business planning;
- audiences understanding and responding to our diverse audiences, through research, audience engagement and outreach initiatives;
- output creatively reflecting the diversity of our audiences across all our platforms, and in the development of new services and technology; and
- workforce a workforce that reflects the diversity of modern Britain and an inclusive work environment.

Directors' report continued

Training and development

Staff in all areas have opportunities to develop their skills. The Company organises comprehensive in-house and external training programmes, covering job-specific skill enhancement, IT software tuition and management development.

Health and safety

Responsibility for health and safety across the Company is delegated to the boards of each of the Company's subsidiaries.

Disabled persons

Disabled persons are fully and fairly considered for vacancies arising within the Company's subsidiaries and are given equal opportunities in relation to training, career development and promotion. Existing employees who become disabled are retained in employment wherever possible, after the provision of any necessary rehabilitation or training.

The environment

The Company does not operate in industries where there is potential for serious industrial pollution, however it recognises its responsibility to be aware of and take steps to control and minimise any damage its business might cause to the environment. The Company is a holding company and therefore does not generate any carbon emissions or have any UK energy use. Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting for the Company's subsidiaries can be found within the consolidated accounts of the Company's immediate parent, BBC Commercial Holdings Limited.

Corporate governance

The 2018 UK Corporate Governance Code, issued by the Financial Reporting Council and setting out principles of good corporate governance is not applicable to BBC Studios Limited as a private limited company but the BBC Group voluntarily complies where appropriate. Disclosure of how the BBC complies may be obtained from www.bbc.co.uk/annualreport.

Political and charitable contributions

The Company made no political donations or contributions to charity during the year.

Dividends

No dividends were declared by the Company during the year (2020: £70.5m).

Future developments

See the Strategic Report for details on the Company's future outlook.

Going concern

As set out on page 16, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the business has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and accordingly the going concern basis continues to be adopted in the preparation of the accounts.

Directors' report continued

Post balance sheet events

There were no events subsequent to the balance sheet date which require disclosure within the financial statements.

Auditor

The National Audit Office served as independent external auditor for the year ended 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020. The National Audit Office have expressed their willingness to continue in office and a resolution to reappoint them will be proposed at the next board meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who is a Director at the date of approval of this annual report confirms that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the Board,

Anthony Corriette
Company secretary
17 June 2021

Registered address

1 Television Centre 101 Wood Lane London W12 7FA

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, comprising FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" and applicable law).

Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business; and
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 101, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report to the members of BBC Studios Limited

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of BBC Studios Limited for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the income statement, the balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and the related notes, including the significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the result for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK) and applicable law. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2019. I have also elected to apply the ethical standards relevant to listed entities. I am independent of BBC Studios Limited in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that BBC Studios Limited's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on BBC Studios Limited's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises information included in the annual report but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

BBC Studios Limited 31 March 2021

Independent auditor's report to the members of BBC Studios Limited continued

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006 In my opinion:

• the information given in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and those reports have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires me to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors are responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.
- such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- assessing BBC Studios Limited's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters
 related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend
 to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK).

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulation, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Inquiring of management, the BBC's head of internal audit and those charged with governance, including
 obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to BBC Studios Limited's policies and procedures
 relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and

Independent auditor's report to the members of BBC Studios Limited continued

- the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations including BBC Studios Limited's controls relating to the Companies Act 2006;
- discussing among the engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: posting of unusual journals and bias in accounting estimates. These areas were identified as significant risks of material misstatement in my audit and audit procedures were undertaken accordingly; and
- obtaining an understanding of BBC Studios Limited's framework of authority as well as other legal and
 regulatory frameworks that BBC Studios Limited operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had
 a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of BBC Studios
 Limited. The key laws and regulations I considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006 and
 applicable taxation. health safety, employment and Ofcom regulation and legislation.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above:
- enquiring of management, those charged with governance and in-house legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- · reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Board;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists and significant component audit teams and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my report.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

DocuSigned by:

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Greg Wilson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
18 June 2021

for and on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Statutory Auditor) National Audit Office 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road Victoria, London SW1W 9SP

BBC Studios Limited 31 March 2021

Income statement

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020
	£m	£m
Dividends received	-	70.5
	•	
Profit for the year	-	70.5

All amounts above are derived from continuing activities.

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above and therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income is presented.

The notes on pages 16 to 19 form part of the financial statements.

BBC Studios Limited 31 March 2021

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	£m	£m
Non-current assets			
Investment in subsidiaries	. 6	166.8	166.8
Total assets less current liabilities, being net assets		166.8	166.8
Represented by			
Share capital	4	0.1	0.1
Retained earnings	4	166.7	166.7
Total equity		166.8	166.8

The financial statements of BBC Studios Limited, registered number 04463546, were approved by the Directors, authorised for issue, and signed on their behalf by:

Cocusigned by

Tom Fussell

Director

17 June 2021

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Share	Retained earnings	Total
	capital		
	£m	£m	£m
At 31 March 2019	0.1	166.7	166.8
Profit for the year	•	70.5	70.5
Dividends declared and paid in year	-	(70.5)	(70.5)
At 31 March 2020	0.1	166.7	166.8
Profit for the year	-	-	-
Dividends declared and paid in year	-	-	
At 31 March 2021	0.1	166.7	166.8

Notes to the financial statements

Statement of compliance with FRS 101

The financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101, "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (FRS 101).

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption under s400 of the Companies Act 2006 not to prepare group accounts as it is a wholly owned subsidiary of BBC Commercial Holdings Limited (registered address: Broadcast Centre, 201 Wood Lane, London, W12 7TP), which produces consolidated accounts that include the Company and its subsidiaries. The group accounts of the BBC are available to the public and can be obtained as set out in note 5.

Accounting policies

This section explains the Company's main accounting policies, which have been applied consistently throughout the year except where stated.

The Company has elected to not prepare consolidated accounts, therefore the financial statements and accompanying notes relate to the results of the Company only.

Basis of accounting

The Company meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS 100 (Financial Reporting Standard 100) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. These financial statements were prepared in accordance with FRS 101 (Financial Reporting Standard 101) 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' as issued by the Financial Reporting Council, for all periods presented

As permitted by FRS 101, the Company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions under FRS101:

- IFRS 7 Financial instruments
- IFRS 13 Fair value measurement
- IAS 1 Presentation of financial statements
- IAS 7 Statement of cash flows
- IAS 8 Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors
- IAS 24 Related party disclosures
- IAS 36 Impairment of assets

Going concern

The Board remains satisfied with the Company's funding and liquidity position. The Company is expected to continue to operate as holding company and its current level of reserves show that the Company should be able to act in this manner for a period of no less than 12 months from the date of signing these financial statements. After making enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

Accounting policies continued

Subsidiary undertakings

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Company. Control is achieved where the Company has the power, directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, the Company takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable.

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less, where appropriate, allowances for impairment.

Dividends on shares presented within equity

Dividends are recognised through equity in the period in which they are declared. Dividends unpaid at the balance sheet date are only recognised as a liability at that date to the extent that they are appropriately authorised and are no longer at the discretion of the Company. Unpaid dividends that do not meet these criteria are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Dividend income

Dividend income from investments is recognised when the Company's right to receive payment has been established (provided that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably).

Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

The following new and revised standards and Interpretations have been adopted for the first time, as they became effective for this financial year:

- Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards
- Definition of a Business (Amendments to IFRS 3)S 9)
- Definition of Material (Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8)
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7)

They have been applied since 1 April 2020 and have not had a significant impact on the results or financial position of the Company.

New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, the following standards and interpretations, which have not been applied in these financial statements, were in issue but not yet effective (and in some cases had not yet been adopted by the EU):

- Covid-19 Related Rent Concessions (Amendment to IFRS 16)
- Interest Rate Benchmark Reform Phase 2 (Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16)

The Directors do not expect that the adoption of the standards and interpretations above would have a material impact on the financial statements of the Company in future periods.

Notes to the financial statements continued

1 Auditor's remuneration

The National Audit Office served as independent external auditors for the Company for the years ended 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020. The following table presents the aggregate fees for professional services and other services rendered by the external auditors to the Company, all of which are bourne by another Group entity. There were no non-audit services provided during the year.

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
For the audit of BBC Studios Limited's annual accounts	38.0	37.0

2 Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are those people who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Company. The Studios Group Executive Committee (which includes the Directors) for BBC Studios Limited have been identified as the key management based on their responsibilities and influence for running and overseeing the Company's services and operations.

No key management individuals who served during the year received remuneration from the Company and the Company has not been recharged for any services provided by the Directors. All amounts have been bourne by other group entities.

Director's remunerations is as follows:

	2021	2020
	£m	£m
Emoluments	0.8	0.7
Performance related	0.1	0.4
Total Directors	0.9	1.1
The higest paid Director's emoluments are as follows:		
	2021	2020
	£m	£m
Emoluments	0.4	0.4
Performance related	-	0.2
Total highest paid Director	0.4	0.6
3 Equity Dividends		
	2021	2020
Dividends payable on ordinary equity shares	£m	£m
Dividends were paid/proposed as follows:		

Total dividends

March 2020 of 141,000p per share

70.5

70.5

Notes to the financial statements continued

4 Share capital and reserves

Share capital

	2021	2020
Issued, allotted, called up and fully paid	£m	£m
At 1 April and 31 March	0.1	0.1

The Company has one class of ordinary shares, which carry no right to fixed income.

Retained earnings

The retained earnings reserve reflects accumulated profits to date.

5 Parent undertaking and controlling party

The Company's immediate parent is BBC Commercial Holdings Limited, which is in turn 100% owned by the ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party, the British Broadcasting Corporation ('BBC'), which is incorporated in the United Kingdom by Royal Charter. The largest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by the BBC. The smallest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that of BBC Commercial Holdings Limited. The consolidated accounts of the BBC may be obtained online at . www.bbc.co.uk/annualreport.

6 Interests in subsidiaries

BBC Studios Limited owns 100% of the issued share capital of the following companies which are incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales

Great Britain and registered in England and Wa	ics.	Holding of
	·	ordinary
Directly owned subsidiaries	Registered Address	shares %
BBC Studios Distribution Limited	1 Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, London W12 7FA	
BBC Studios Productions Limited	Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, London W12 7FA	100