



TELEVISION JOURNALISM AWARDS 2021 CRITERIA

Submissions are now invited for the Television Journalism Awards. The awards, for both news and current affairs, seek to recognise creative and excellent journalism by organisations whose broadcasts are transmitted on a UK based platform, such as Freeview, Freesat, Sky or Virgin or who create online video content from a UK production base.

The 2021 Awards ceremony will be celebrated on Wednesday 24 February 2021, the format of this event will be confirmed closer to the time but will ensure a proud celebration of nominees and winners.

If there are questions on the eligibility of any entry, these should be addressed to Jo Sampson at jsampson@rts.org.uk.

The Juries will be asked to follow these overarching criteria which apply to all categories.

- *Quality of the journalism. Juries will be asked to gauge this particularly in the context of the type of market where the entry is mainly targeted.*
- *Impact and resonance with the target audience. Evidence should be submitted separately and may be taken into account by the jury.*
- *Enterprise. Juries be asked to give credit for creative, original, resourceful and imaginative approaches.*
- *Technical quality. Juries will be asked to measure this in the context of production pressures; for example turn-round time and the conditions under which an item is produced.*

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS AWARDS

News Coverage – Home

The Home News Award is for the best coverage of a major news story in the UK. The award is intended to recognise every aspect of coverage including journalistic enterprise, quality of reporting, picture content, analysis and explanation, and comprehensiveness of overall coverage, including speed of reaction in unexpected or unplanned stories (although a separate award, Breaking News, concentrates specifically on this aspect).

Entries: Up to three entries per channel or agency to a maximum of 20 minutes (including slates/black) per entry. In addition, news teams serving a nation (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or a region of one of those nations or an English region or sub-region or the Channel Islands may submit two stories which have appeared on a UK-wide channel. Entries can consist of a maximum of 12 excerpts, each clearly identified by time and date. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally. Entries from news agencies should include copies of scripts sent with the original material and, where possible, details of how the content was used by broadcasters. Foreign elements can be included, as long as they are clearly relevant to the story and represent no more than 25% of the total footage supplied for judging, i.e. a maximum of five minutes in a 20 minutes entry.

News Coverage - International

The International News Award is for the best coverage of a major news story outside the UK. The award is intended to recognise every aspect of coverage including journalistic enterprise, quality of reporting and picture content, analysis and explanation and comprehensiveness of overall coverage, including speed of reaction in unexpected or unplanned stories (although a separate award, Breaking News, concentrates specifically on this aspect).

Entries: Up to three entries per channel or agency to a maximum of 20 minutes (including slates/black) per entry. In addition, news teams serving a nation (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or a region of one of those nations or an English region or sub-region or the Channel Islands may submit two stories which have appeared on a UK-wide channel. Entries can consist of a maximum of 12 excerpts, each clearly identified by time and date. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally. Entries from news agencies should include copies of scripts sent with the original material and, where possible, details of how the content was used by broadcasters.

Daily News Programme of the Year

The Daily News Programme of the Year Award is for the programme which has demonstrated the greatest journalistic excellence throughout the year. The jury may take into account the performance of a programme beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Entries: Up to three entries per channel to a maximum of 60 minutes (including slates/black) per entry. In addition, news teams serving a nation (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) or a region of one of those nations or an English region or sub-region or the Channel Islands may submit a single entry. Entries can consist of up to a maximum of 30 separate sequences, each clearly identified by time and date. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally.

News Channel of the Year

The News Channel of the Year Award is for the news channel which has best reported the events of the year to viewers in the UK. A news channel is considered to be a continuous live video stream on TV and/or online which may contain some pre-recorded programmes. The jury may take into account the performance of an entrant beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Entries: One per channel. Each entry should consist of a maximum of 40 excerpts and should be separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits, of up to 60 minutes (including slates/black) in total covering a number of different news events. The material must be as first broadcast. Submissions should indicate the date and time of each extract.

Breaking News

This award recognises the expertise of news organisations in responding to an unscheduled or unexpected major news story. The judges will be focusing on the initial coverage and the speed with which the broadcaster provides cogent reports, background, context and analysis to the viewer. They will also consider how well the broadcaster reported subsequent events over the first 48 hours. The jury may take into account the performance of an entrant beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Entries: Up to two entries per channel to a maximum of 30 minutes (including slates/black) per entry. Entries can consist of a maximum of 12 excerpts shown within the first 48 hours of the coverage, each clearly identified by time and date. Sequences must be separated briefly by black and must not be edited internally. Entries from news agencies should include copies of scripts sent with the original material and, where possible, details of how the content was used by broadcasters.

News Technology

This award recognises the way in which news organisations harness technology in an innovative way to support and enhance journalism and the delivery of news on TV and/or other digital and online platforms. This could range from news-gathering and news presentation to new ways of displaying information to engage with viewers. It is likely that entrants will need to support their entry with information to help the judges understand why the innovation deserves special credit: this can be done on video with commentary or with text.

Entries: Up to two per news organisation, agency or production company. Entries may be single pieces of media or separately identifiable extracts with no internal edits.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS AWARDS

Current Affairs - Home

The Home Current Affairs Award is for the best piece of current affairs journalism shot in the UK. It seeks to recognise excellence in programmes ranging from daily long-form news to weekly or bi-weekly current affairs and to other forms of topical television journalism. Short-form single current affairs items are also eligible for entry. Documentary programmes should be entered in the documentary categories in the RTS Programme Awards not in the RTS Journalism Awards.

Entries: Normally three entries per channel but up to four per channel if one is an independent production. Entries should be a single programme or a single report from a programme, but not multi-item programmes or compilations. Entries must not be edited or repackaged.

Current Affairs - International

The International Current Affairs Award is for the best piece of non UK current affairs journalism. The programme should be substantially about an international subject. It seeks to recognise excellence in programmes ranging from daily long-form news to weekly or bi-weekly current affairs and to other forms of topical journalism. Short form single current affairs items are also eligible for entry. Documentary programmes should be entered in the documentary categories in the RTS Programme Awards not in the RTS Journalism Awards.

Entries: Normally three entries per channel or agency but up to four per channel if one is an independent production. Entries should be a single programme or a single report from a programme, but not multi-item programmes or compilations. Entries must not be edited or repackaged.

NATIONS AND REGIONS AWARDS

Nations and Regions News

The Nations and Regions News Award is for the programme which has best demonstrated originality and production quality as well as journalistic excellence. Entrants should bear in mind that judges are asked to consider not only treatment of major news stories but evidence of how a programme team can create a sense of belonging that distinguishes individual programmes from the output of other areas. Entries are invited from news teams in the nations (Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland), the regions of those nations, the English regions and sub-regions, the Channel Islands and local TV services in the UK.

Entries: One entry per news team, up to 30 minutes in length. Programmes entered should be complete with no internal edits and have been first transmitted anytime within the criteria year.

Nations and Regions Current Affairs

This Award is for the best current affairs programme commissioned, made and first transmitted in a nation or region. Entries are invited from teams in the nations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), the English regions, the Channel Islands and local TV services in the UK. The award seeks to recognise excellence in programmes ranging from daily long-form news reportage to weekly current affairs as well as other forms of topical television journalism.

Entries: Normally one per nation or region but two if it is an independent production, of any length up to 60 minutes (including slates/black). Entries should be a complete programme consisting of either a single subject or up to three different features, or a single report from a programme.

Nations and Regions Presenter of the Year

The Nations & Regions Presenter of the Year Award is for the best news and/or current affairs presenter whose skills may include interviewing, responding to breaking news, effective communication with the programme audience and presenting on location as well as studio presentation. (Entries should demonstrate the range of the presenter within their particular genre.)

Entries: One per region of up to 30 minutes (including slates/black) with a maximum of 10 excerpts. Entries may be single items or separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits. Entrants are permitted to include material from more than one channel in their entry but must only be their work from news or current affairs. Where there is a crossover of channels, entrants will need to specify from which channel their entry comes.) Entries may not include primary presentation or co-presentation of networked programmes but can include inserts into a networked programme.

AWARDS FOR NEWS OR CURRENT AFFAIRS

Scoop of the Year

This award recognises exclusive, entrepreneurial journalism in either news or current affairs by a broadcaster or agency. Entries will be judged on the strength of the journalism and the wider impact more than the production values of the transmitted story.

Entries: Up to three entries per channel of up to 30 minutes (including slates/black) each, consisting of a maximum of 10 excerpts. Entries may either be single items or separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits, of items taken from the coverage of one story.

Specialist Journalist of the Year

The award recognises high quality specialist knowledge and expertise in thematic genres such as arts, entertainment, science, health, education, business, economics, politics and defence inside or outside the UK. Coverage of a particular area of the world is not considered specialist in itself but reporting of a theme or issue within that area is. The jury may take into account the performance of the individual beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Entries: Three per channel of up to 30 minutes (including slates/black). Entries must be separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits.

Young Talent of the Year

The Young Talent of the Year Award is for the best work in news or current affairs during the year by an on- or off-screen journalist, editor, video journalist, camera operator or technician. Entrants must be under the age of 30 (on the last day of the twelve-month period from which entries are invited). In the case of off-screen candidates especially (but all candidates ideally), the judges will welcome supporting written material and background information to help understand the individual contribution.

Entries: Two per channel or news organisations, agency or production company of up to 30 minutes (including slates/black). Entries should consist of a maximum of five excerpts with no internal edits, to demonstrate range.

Television Journalist of the Year

The Television Journalist of the Year award is for the best work during the year by an on-screen television journalist in news and/or current affairs. Judges will expect to see a demonstration of the range of the journalist and may take into account the performance of a journalist beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Entries: Up to three per channel of up to 30 minutes (including slates/black). Entries, with no internal edits, should include a minimum of three items to demonstrate range.

Camera Operator of the Year

The Camera Operator of the Year Award is for the best work by a camera operator in news or current affairs. The judges will wish to see the breadth and depth of the camera operator's skill. It will be particularly helpful for the jury to be provided with written background information on whether, for example, the camera operator also helped to produce the items or edited them.

Entries: Up to three per channel or agency of up to 15 minutes (including slates/black). The submitted material should consist of pictures and effects only, ie without any added commentary or music, although a written script may be submitted as well. Only in exceptional circumstances will an entry with commentary be considered. The material should be as first broadcast (or, in the case of agencies, as sent to clients on the day) with no subsequent edits or later post transmission techniques such as grading. Natural sound levels may be restored to their original levels as recorded at the time but no enhancement.

Network Presenter of the Year

The Network Presenter of the Year Award is for the best news and/or current affairs presenter whose skills may include interviewing, responding to breaking news, effective communication with the programme audience and presenting on location as well as studio presentation. Reporter packages made on presentation assignments may be submitted but this category is primarily for presenting not reporting and those reports can be submitted into the news coverage categories. The jury may take into account the performance of a presenter beyond the submitted material, from within the criteria year.

Entries: Up to five entries per organisation of up to 30 minutes (including slates/black). Please provide a maximum of 10 excerpts. Entries may be single items or separately identifiable extracts, with no internal edits. Entrants are permitted to include material from more than one channel in their entry but must only be from their work for news or current affairs. Where there is a crossover of channels, entrants will need to specify from which channel their entry comes. Please ensure your excerpts feature the presenter being judged and no co-presenters.

Digital Award

This award recognises the huge growth in video-journalism produced specifically for streaming on internet-connected platforms. These include websites, apps, social media channels including YouTube and OTT ("over-the-top") TV channels. Any professional video-journalism organisation with a U.K production base is eligible to enter (including mainstream broadcasters). The spirit of this award is to encourage and reward original digital journalism. Entries should have been commissioned and designed for a digital platform or platforms. Although entries may subsequently have been shown on conventional TV (DTT, satellite or cable) the judges will be looking particularly for an originality of approach which focusses on the production and delivery of journalism for non-broadcast audiences, especially on handheld devices. This type of journalism is often produced by individuals or very small teams who are multi-skilled and this will be also taken into account by the judges.

Entries: Should be a single piece of video-journalism, news or a feature, and no longer than 15 minutes. Original pieces which are longer may be edited into up to three segments. Each organization, including regional centres, can enter up to TWO pieces.

Interview of the Year

This award recognises the importance of the television interview in making news and in analysing issues. The judges will be looking for an interview which reveals new - and often unexpected - information and demonstrates journalistic skills by the interviewer. The award is given for the best interview, not for the best package of interviews by one journalist.

Entries: Up to three entries per news organisation with a maximum of 20 minutes (including slates/black) per entry. No editing is permitted within the entry.

AWARDED BY THE RTS IN DISCUSSION WITH CHAIRS OF JURIES, BROADCASTER REPRESENTATIVES, NEWS ORGANISATIONS AND NEWS PROVIDERS / AGENCIES

The following awards will be awarded or deferred at the discretion of the panel:

Judges' Award

The Judges' Award can be presented to an individual (on or off screen) or a production team to recognise an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Television Journalism in the past year. This Award cannot be awarded posthumously.

Outstanding Contribution Award

In special circumstances a decision can be made to make a further award to an individual (on or off screen) to mark an outstanding contribution. It is envisaged that this may arise when the Judges' Award has gone to an individual for a specific achievement in the past year but where, for instance, it is felt that another person after long service to television journalism should also be marked.

Suggestions for the Judges' Award and Outstanding Contribution Award may be submitted directly by a broadcaster or agency to the Journalism Awards Committee (jsampson@rts.org) and juries will also be invited to offer suggestions.

TELEVISION JOURNALISM AWARDS 2021 - CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 1 Entries will be accepted from broadcasting organisations, news providers, freelance technicians and independent producers whose broadcasts are transmitted on a UK based platform, such as Freeview, Freesat, Sky or Virgin or who create online video content from a UK production base.
- 2 All entries must have been first transmitted on any platform in the UK or made available through a website between 16 November 2019 and 15 November 2020.
- 3 Entries should be checked carefully to ensure that they meet the criteria and conditions of entry and that sound and vision are continuous throughout. If entries are found not to meet criteria and conditions of entry they may be declared ineligible at any stage in the judging process.
- 4 **REGULATORY ISSUES:** If an entry is under investigation for any reason, the entrant should make this known at the time of entry. The RTS may reject an entry which is subject to a regulatory investigation. All entries must be from the original source and not taken from a subsequent showing elsewhere.
- 5 We would also stress the need for all organisations to show awareness in their selection of entries of the need for recognising diversity in our industry and in our wider community.
- 6 Entries must be endorsed by the television organisation or agency which transmitted or distributed the material.
- 7 The entry must be as originally edited for transmission. Except where indicated otherwise, no items may have internal edits and individual excerpts must be clearly identified with title slates. **Graphics showing press coverage of entries are not permitted.** Subsequent editing to improve the recording for the purpose of these Awards is not permitted.
- 8 **IMPORTANT: DURATION OF ENTRY – THIS MUST INCLUDE ALL VIDEO CONTENT – INCLUDING ALL TITLE SLATES, FADE TO BLACK ETC.**
- 9 Sound tracks on news items should contain only the sound recorded at the time of shooting unless otherwise stated in the criteria.
- 10 **All entries must be submitted using the RTS Online Awards Entry System - <https://awardsentry.rts.org.uk/entrant/index.php>.** Please contact Jamie O'Neill on 020 7822 2821 or jo'neill@rts.org.uk with any queries about the system.
- 11 **Please be aware that should your entry receive a nomination (announced at the end of January), we will require two 30 second clips per nomination. These will be projected on the large screen at the ceremony in HD. Details of the delivery format for these will be issued at the time of nomination notification.**
- 12 **Supporting information** – entrants should answer the questions asked and adhere to the wordcount. This should be typed/inserted into the text box on the entry system and no other supporting material should be attached.
- 13 The cost per entry is £290.00 + £58.00 VAT. Payment should be made to **RTS Enterprises Ltd.**
- 14 All entries **MUST** be submitted by **23:59 on Tuesday 1 December** (this deadline cannot be extended)
- 15 The decisions made by the judges are final and no correspondence can be entered into as to why particular entries were not chosen for nomination.
- 16 The RTS will require permission to rebroadcast on its website any clips of nominated entries shown at the ceremony.
- 17 **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL ENTRIES ARE CHECKED THOROUGHLY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND MAKE SURE THAT SOUND AND VISION ARE PRESENT THROUGHOUT.**