

BSLBT May 2024 Commissioning Round *Factual*



1) STEP UP: FACTUAL

- A scheme that enables mid-level talent to step up to producer/director level with support.
- You must have worked in the media world for three years, for example, you must have worked as a shooting assistant producer, an assistant producer, VT director, have directed short films, or directed ONE half-hour TV programme for broadcast. If that's you, you can apply!
- You will be applying as an individual. If you are successful, you will be paired with an experienced factual production company to make your film with you.
- Looking for ideas for ONE single documentary that is 28 minutes in length.
- It can be pre-watershed or post-watershed (after 9pm).
- It can be any topic, but it must resonate with our deaf viewers and it must be thought provoking and must generate conversation.
- Diversity within the deaf community is rich. We have people from different ethnicity, religions, social-economic backgrounds, people with disabilities, gender, sexuality and so on...**we want our content to reflect this brilliant diversity.**



2) INVESTIGATIVE SERIES

- Hard-hitting **topical or investigative** series of high journalistic calibre (3 x 28')
- We want a series that holds organisations and individuals who serve the deaf community to account.
- We want this series to shine a spotlight on NEW never seen/never heard of stories and scandals in our community
- Fronted by the next Stacey Dooley or Louis Theroux – preferably a BSL user with a journalistic background or who has the potential and research skills to quickly step into this role. Who will relish the opportunity to challenge those who are failing to deliver for the deaf community and tackle hidden scandals being whispered about?
- Think 'Dispatches', 'Panorama' or 'Newsnight' but with the Stacey Dooley/Louis Theroux twist – **how might this work? We want to hear your ideas!**
- Must be pitched via a production company with a strong track record of **investigative or topical** series.



3) DATING/REALITY SERIES

- Looking for a fun dating/reality series (3 x 28')
- Must be a returnable format in case we would like to commission more in the future.
- Must be high quality, glossy and high octane
- Must feel fresh and original- cannot be a 'deaf version' of an existing format.
- Must have a 'deaf twist'...
- Think of series such as 'Love Island', 'The Only Way is Essex', 'Love is Blind', 'Married at First Sight', 'Naked Attraction', 'Geordie Shore' & 'Singles Inferno'
- Must be pitched via a production company with a strong track record of format series.
- Diversity within the deaf community is rich. We have people from different ethnicity, religions, social-economic backgrounds, people with disabilities, gender, sexuality and so on...we want our content to reflect this brilliant diversity.



HOW TO APPLY?

- Check your eligibility- see 'ADDITIONAL INFORMATION' page at the end of this document.
- If you are eligible, complete the **submission form** (either in written format or in a BSL video) to commissioning@bslbt.co.uk by **Monday 22nd July 2024**.
- If your idea is shortlisted, you will be invited to meet with our Factual Commissioners and Production Executives w/c 5th August 2024.
- If your idea is successful, your idea will go through a development stage first (late 2024) before moving into production (2025).

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.co.uk

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HOW TO APPLY IN BSL?

If you want to submit your idea in BSL, then you can! Here are the steps to follow:

- 1) Make sure you download the submission form
- 2) Answer the questions on the submission form in a BSL video
- 3) Send the video via WeTransfer to commissioning@bslbt.co.uk by Monday 22nd July 2024.

If you want the submission form to be translated into BSL or if you need help with creating the videos then please email commissioning@bslbt.co.uk for support.



WHAT'S THE BUDGET?

Step Up:

Up to £60K for 1 episode

Investigative Series:

Up to £70k per episode

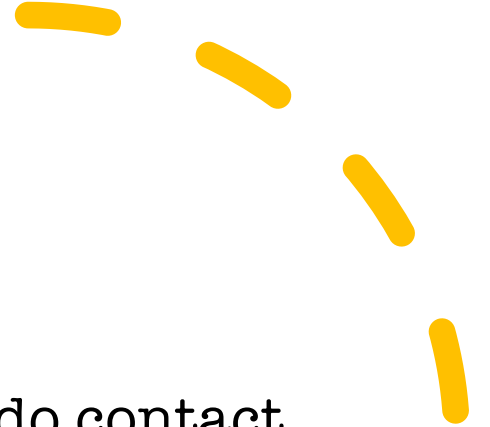
Dating/Reality Format

Up to £90k per episode





WANT TO TALK?



If you want to talk through your idea, do contact commissioning@bslbt.co.uk to set up a chat with our Factual Commissioners, Cathy Heffernan and Julian Peedle-Calloo.





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1) Your idea **must** have contributors who use BSL and be fully accessible to deaf BSL users.
- 2) Your idea **must** reflect diversity on screen.
- 3) These factual rounds are **aimed** at deaf directors and/or producers.
- 4) For the investigative series and the dating/reality series, you **must** have a television production company attached. The company must have made at least one television programme for BSLBT or a UK broadcaster

STATEMENT

By taking part in this process, you:

- Confirm that you are deaf, over the age of 18, live in the UK and have the right to work in the UK.
- Confirm that you are the sole and exclusive owner of the proposal and you are formally submitting it to this BSLBT May 2024 Factual round.
- Understand that BSLBT may already be exploring programme proposals and/or ideas which are similar to your proposal and that, in some cases, similar or identical ideas may be generated independently.
- Agree that BSLBT may discuss your proposals with staff and Board members.
- Confirm that you have read and understood the [Privacy Notice for Programme Proposal Submissions](#).
- Understand that programme ideas will be assessed and considered by BSLBT's Commissioning team and the Board.
- Acknowledge that BSLBT reserves the right to change the Commissioning process/timetable at any time.