

Factual Commissioning brief 2025

LumoTV wants to encourage ambitious deaf-led storytelling that delivers strong journalism, challenges perceptions and offers new insights in our documentary-making. To this end, we are on the lookout for ideas for bold and untold stories that offer a fresh perspective on life in Britain today.

Short Forms Documentaries (Production Company TBC)

Short and (not so) sweet! / Sometimes shorter is better! And with this in mind, LumoTV is looking for ideas for short documentaries deliver a big impact. *(surprise, challenge perceptions, change minds).*

Films can be between **5'-14'** and must combine fresh journalism-led storytelling with creative and innovative ways to portray sign language on screen. We want to see new topics that haven't been covered before.

Ideas can be either pre- or post- watershed.

This is open to experienced filmmakers who want to create something unique and experimental that showcases their journalism skills. It is also open to up-and-coming filmmakers with a strong idea. Training will be provided when required and will be customised as needed but there will be a focus on journalism and editorial skills. You will be working with a production company with a background in strong documentary making. If required we will provide training in journalism, storytelling and more before you start to direct the film.

We're looking for strong stories to be told creatively on a budget; think minimal locations/crew, maximum impact!

There's plenty you can watch on Sky Docs and Netflix Shorts to inspire you to come up with ideas for LumoTV!

- <https://www.musicbed.com/articles/inspiration/5-short-documentaries-that-pack-a-punch/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/documentaries>

Long Form Documentaries

Calling filmmakers with ideas for strong, creative, cinematic and compelling character-led narratives.

We are looking for a strong new idea for a longform documentary– at least 30 minutes long and up to a one hour.

We want incredible contributors and compelling storytelling. We want to be gripped, surprised and challenged.

There is no set theme. This could be true crime– do you have an idea that tells a story about deaf prisoners? It could be historical– bringing a forgotten deaf historical figure to the fore for example? Or a story from the world of sport? The key is a strong story with captivating characters.

We are **not** looking for presenter-led documentaries or pilot ideas for new formats. This is for single documentaries. Your ideas can be suitable for either pre- or post-watershed.

As in everything we commission, we are keen to see your creative and innovative ways of portraying BSL on screen.

Budget

The budget tariffs we can offer for ideas that are chosen to be greenlit from the development phase into production will be determined on a project-by-project basis but will be circa. £10-20K for a Short Film, £60-75K for a half hour and up to £100K for 45min-1hour.

Development funds will also be determined on a project-by-project basis but will be circa £2-15K depending on the format length. If you have any further questions about budgets, allocation or project affordability for a pitch, please feel free to get in touch with our Commissioner and Production Executives to discuss things in more detail.

As a charity serving the deaf/BSL communities we contract all our productions on an all media, in perpetuity, worldwide basis. This enables us to serve our communities with as much signed content as possible, as the only signed commissioning body in the world.

We are open to explore ideas for co-funding and distribution deals to widen our reach and, if additional funding is secured, associated rights negotiations. If you'd like to discuss any of this, please let us know.

Please note that we will have fewer commissioning slots available this year so you will need to ensure that ideas are of the highest quality to fulfil our programming and audience demands.

What should I submit?

We would like to receive a high-quality deck which includes a fleshed-out proposal including the treatment, running order, any safeguarding considerations/ measures, director's vision and contributors' stories- *it will be useful to receive a sizzler.*

Considerations for how the production will work within the tariff and any examples of previous work delivered within the tariff range.

Arrange to meet the Factual Commissioners FIRST

Please contact the Factual Commissioner and ask for a meeting to discuss your ideas before you submit your deck.

Deadline

The commissioning round will open on 3rd April 2025 with submissions to reach us by 2nd May with a view to develop, shoot and TX in late 2025/2026.

Shortlisted candidates will then need to make themselves available for interview during the first two weeks of June. We would like to meet representatives from the editorial and production management sides.