

BBC RADIO BRISTOL

TECHNICAL DATA

Radio Bristol, the first of the second generation of Local Radio Stations commenced transmissions on September 4th, 1970.

Its transmissions on 95.4 MHz are radiated from the BBC's Mendip transmitting site near Wells in Somerset. (National Grid Reference ST 563. 488). The site is 1,000 feet a.s.l. and the transmitting aerials are 775 feet up the 1,000 ft. mast. Maximum E.R.P. from the 'Gates' transmitter is 5kW and the transmissions are horizontally polarised. Programmes are fed to the transmitter via high quality Post Office lines.

The transmission area is approximately within a radius of 25 miles from Mendip, but acceptable signals can be received at greater distances depending on the quality of the receiver, its aerial system and the height of the receiving site.

Radio Bristol will begin broadcasting on Medium Wave on September 2nd. Initially the Clevedon Transmitting Station will be used. The wavelength is 194.

Radio Bristol has 3 studios, each one designed to be self-operated by the broadcaster or controlled by an operator in an adjacent control cubicle. The control desks are of the latest transistorised design, each desk having up to 11 channels available for programme use. The studios are normally equipped as follows :-

- 2 Studer A62 full track $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 15"/s tape machines
 - 1 Rola Plessey CT80 Cassette machine
 - 2 Thorens T.D.124 turntables with Lenco L75 arms and G800 Cartridge
 - 2 ST & C 4038 Ribbon Microphones
 - 2 A.K.G. D202 Moving Coil Microphones
 - 1 K.E.F. Concord Monitoring Loudspeaker
- A number of Ferrograph Series 7 tape machines are also available.

When the station is not originating local programmes, there is a choice of Radio 1 by high quality line feed or Radios 2, 3 and 4 from re-broadcast receivers.

The Station has a Radio Car equipped with a UHF programme transmitter (5 watts on 455.1 MHz) and a communications channel (50 watts on 141.66875 MHz). It has a hydraulically operated 20 ft. mast equipped with an omni-directional aerial system. A flexible two-channel mixer is used to control speech and tape recordings which can be transmitted directly on to Radio Bristol's output, or recorded for later use. The receiving site is at a high point near the studios and the directional receiving aerial can be rotated remotely from the studio control desks. All the Radio Car equipment is operated off heavy duty batteries.

The station is equipped for outside broadcasts and recordings of all types, most of the equipment is battery operated. Nagra tape machines are used for complete programmes and Uher 4000L tape machines for short interviews.

Self-operated studios at Bath, Trowbridge, Bristol Police Headquarters and A.A. Headquarters are available for immediate use and there are facilities for live broadcasts from local Football and Rugby Clubs and Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.

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INFORMATION SHEET

1) How many staff does Radio Bristol employ?

27 Full-time staff including producers, two engineers, reporters, copy-takers and secretaries.

2) What are the running costs?

£130,000 a year. That money comes from licence fees paid by members of the public for their television and radio. It does not come from the rates.

3) How many local programmes are put out?

Radio Bristol transmits an average of 9 hours of local material a day.

4) What sort of local programmes?

Practically everything. About a third of the output is local news with flashes and traffic information throughout the day. The remainder includes religion, education, women's programmes, sport, arts, documentaries, discussions and record programmes.

5) What happens when the station is not putting out local material?

It relays programmes from the existing national networks. Most come from Radio 2, but there are also news bulletins and 'The World at One' from Radio 4.

6) What time does the station go on the air?

Radio Bristol opens at 5.00 am and closes at 2.00 am the following morning. It is on the air seven days a week.

7) How much does the BBC in London dictate what programmes Radio Bristol should carry?

Not at all. The only control from London is in the budget allotted to the station.

8) If the station is so powerful, what safeguards are there for the public?

A Radio Council which acts as a sounding board for local opinion and liaison with the public. The chairman is a lecturer in modern history at Bristol University, Dr. John Cannon, who has access to the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.