

Joint Statement

September 2025

Cross-Industry Meeting on Broken Turnaround

Pact, Bectu, and representatives from ITV Studios, BBC Studios, the Production Managers Association and the independent production sector met recently to discuss ways of addressing the industry-wide challenge presented by broken turnaround in scripted and non-scripted television production. This follows a Pact/Bectu joint statement issued in July, in which both parties pledged to try and eliminate the practice in scripted and non-scripted productions.

The meeting was positive and constructive. Focusing in the main on the non-scripted sector, it was agreed that part of the solution in the short to medium term should be increasing awareness and ensuring that producers, freelancers and commissioners understand what broken turnaround is and are familiar with the key parts of the Working Time Regulations.

There was acknowledgement that in the scripted sector, the Pact-Bectu TV Drama agreement has had a significant impact in reducing broken turnaround, but there is still significant work to be done.

BBC Studios and ITV Studios were able to contribute to the conversation by sharing that they would look into example of best practice on their shows to exchange ideas and contribute to solving the challenges around broken turnaround shared by Pact and Bectu.

The PMA will also be putting forward their suggestions on best practice, as will producers and branch Heads of Department from Bectu's membership.

Ultimately, the parties agreed that commissioners need to actively engage with these issues to help alleviate the pressure on resourcing productions and eventually eliminate broken turnaround.