

BBC to slash online budget by a quarter

24 January 2011



short of expectation," he said, but insisted that BBC Online remained "at the heart" of the corporation's digital future.

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The BBC logo at Portland Place is shown in London 2004. The BBC said Monday it would cut its online budget by 25 percent as the publicly-funded broadcaster responds to criticism that is an unfair competitor to commercial rivals.

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The change will see 34 million pounds (54.5 million dollars, 40 million euros) cut from [BBC](#) Online's budget and 360 [jobs](#) will be lost over the next two years.

Among some 200 websites to be closed are services aimed at teenagers and community-focused services. There will be a reduction in the overall amount of sports news, live sport and showbusiness news.

The BBC has frequently attracted criticism for its extensive, free-access website from commercial media, with some of the loudest complaints coming from Rupert Murdoch's [News Corp.](#) empire.

BBC director general Mark Thompson admitted the changes would be "painful".

"BBC Online is a huge success, but our vast portfolio of websites means we sometimes fall

APA citation: BBC to slash online budget by a quarter (2011, January 24) retrieved 2 December 2021 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-01-bbc-slash-online-quarter.html>

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