

## Appendix 2- analysis of programme content by subject

BBC Radio 4's 'Today' programme was monitored for a total of 9 weeks. The programme is broadcast for three hours on each weekday, and two hours on a Saturday making a total of **17 hours** per week. Over the 9-week period, a total **153 hours** of broadcast output was monitored.

### Makeup of the Programme

Each programme can be separated into two distinct elements, **Fixed Items** and **Features**

#### Fixed items

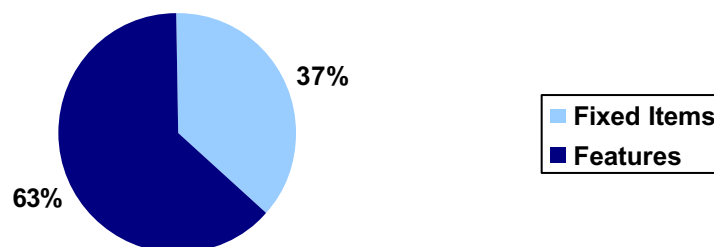
This includes regular, non-news related fixed slots such as **Sports News**, **Weather Reports**, **Trailers** for other Radio 4 programmes, **'Thought for the Day'**, the **Saturday Essay**, the **Newspaper** round up and the regular half-hourly **Bulletins**.

#### Features

Included in this are the **Reports from Correspondents**, **News Analysis**, and **Interviews**. For the purposes of this analysis, **Business News** and **Yesterday in Parliament** are also included within this section, as although they appear in fixed slots, they often contain in-depth, 'feature-like' reports

### Breakdown of Fixed Items and Features

On average, each week's **17 hours** of broadcast output is divided into **6 hours 15 minutes** of **Fixed Items** and **10 hours 45 minutes** of **Features**



Over the 9-week monitoring the Today programme consisted of **56 hours and 15 minutes** of **Fixed Items** and **96 hours and 45 minutes** of **Features**.

## Methodology

This analysis will concentrate on the **Features** broadcast by the programme, and analyse the amount of time allocated to various types of story. This will demonstrate the value given to the various subjects by the editorial team.

This methodology purposefully excludes two news-related **Fixed Items**, namely the **Bulletins** and **Newspapers**. Although they cover a breadth of topics each day, to include them in this study would be problematic due to their repetitive nature (in the case of the **Bulletins**, a story can be repeated up to six times in the course of a morning).

Each week the **Features** broadcast by the programme were assessed and placed into one of the following six categories:

**World News**

**Home Affairs**

**European News**

**Science and Environment**

**Arts and Culture**

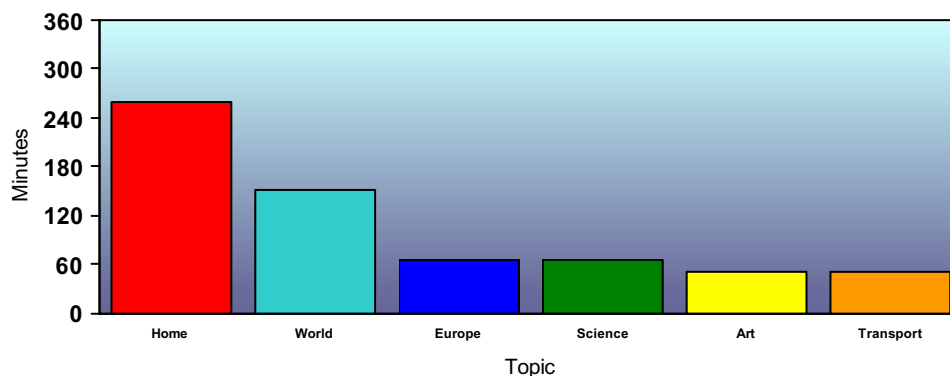
**Transport**

Each item has been timed and entered into a chart. The cumulative total for each week has been displayed as a graph, as is the cumulative total for the whole 9 weeks.

**Week One**  
22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	36	31	10	15	14	0
Tuesday	65	19	13	5	0	18
Wednesday	52	36	19	0	5	3
Thursday	26	30	4	25	12	20
Friday	47	18	19	16	8	9
Saturday	34	17	0	5	11	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>260 min</b>	<b>151 min</b>	<b>65 min</b>	<b>66 min</b>	<b>50 min</b>	<b>50 min</b>

Week One - Subject Distribution



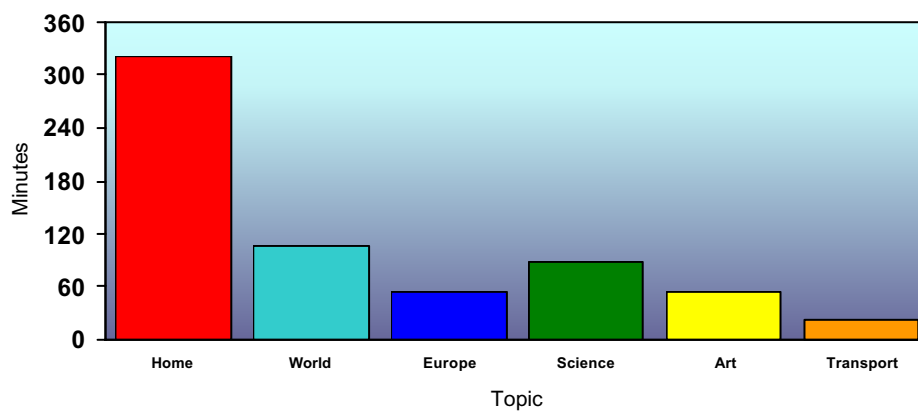
### Main Stories This Week:

- Home:** Further grant for the Millennium Dome; Laura Spence and Oxford elitism claims; Jill Dando murderer found. Key vote in Northern Ireland on power-sharing.
- World:** Hostages freed in Sierra Leone; Israel withdraws from Southern Lebanon; China to receive Permanent Normal Trade Relations; White-owned Zimbabwe farms to be given back to black majority
- European:** Row between France and Germany over comments made by Chevenement; London-Frankfurt stock exchange merger
- Science:** Organophosphate sheep dips to go back on sale; traces of GM found in supposedly non-GM products; New strategy for waste recycling.
- Art and Culture:** Leiber and Stoller in London for Ivor Novello Awards, BT Ethnic Minorities Media Awards
- Transport:** Railtrack asking for £20 billion to build 'railways of the future'; Transport 2000 to challenge police over enforcement of speed limits

**Week Two**  
29<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	53	31	6	13	9	4
Tuesday	83	8	0	4	21	0
Wednesday	47	17	15	26	6	10
Thursday	78	9	2	8	12	9
Friday	41	34	26	13	0	0
Saturday	19	16	4	25	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>321 min</b>	<b>105 min</b>	<b>53 min</b>	<b>89 min</b>	<b>53 min</b>	<b>23 min</b>

Week Two - Subject Distribution



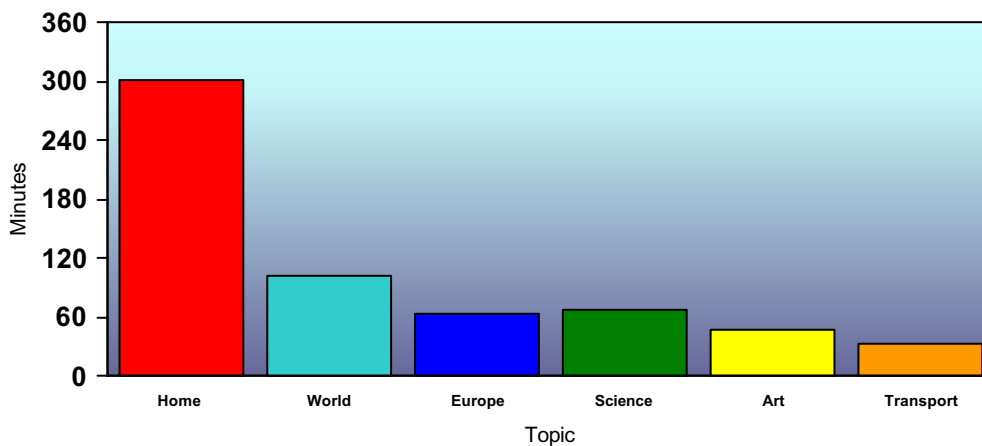
**Main Stories This Week:**

- Home:** Elitism and the University system; NHS Census; Scottish private referendum on Section 28; Incompetent Gynaecologist Rodney Ledward; Dunkirk anniversary commemoration.
- World:** Foreign media asked to leave Fijian capital; Clinton to meet Ehud Barak in Israel, Foreign Office Minister attacked on Zimbabwe Farm.
- European:** Britain and France sign Eurostar asylum agreement, Russia's Putin to meet EU Leaders; Worries that Britain is moving towards becoming a signatory to Schengen Agreement.
- Science:** Experiments show that GM material can cross species barriers; Irish Measles epidemic could be replicated here; Human Genome project is nearing completion.
- Art and Culture:** BBC *Music Live* events across the country; Year of the Artist, Today has an artist in residence; new movie starring pop group All Saints is critically panned
- Transport:** Speculation that John Prescott will announce a ten-year-plan for transport.

**Week Three**  
5<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> June

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	67	6	9	9	7	7
Tuesday	36	24	7	23	14	16
Wednesday	54	24	9	13	6	5
Thursday	68	25	8	3	8	1
Friday	50	19	25	12	3	4
Saturday	27	4	5	7	20	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>33</b>

Week Three - Subject Distribution



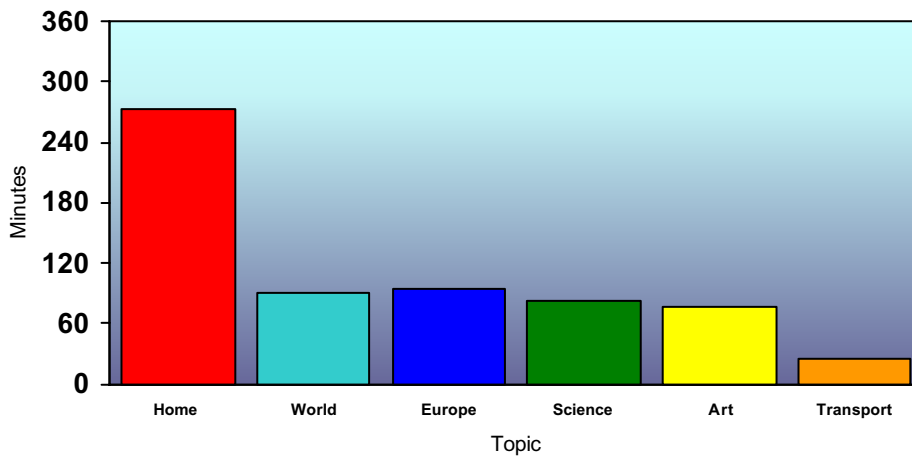
**Main Stories This Week:**

- Home:** Tony Blair to chair NHS Summit; First meeting of Northern Ireland Assembly since it was suspended; security preparations for the Euro 200 championships; Burns report on hunting with hounds is published; Labour’s PR disaster at the Women’s Institute.
- World:** Emergency meeting of 8 nations to discuss the coups in Fiji and Solomon Islands; British Diplomat shot in Athens.
- European:** Francis Maude challenges Prime Minister to hold a referendum on Britain’s plans to give up its veto; Franco-German summit; disquiet from Conservatives over Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Science:** The map of the Human Genome published; Duke of Edinburgh plays down the risk of GM foods; goat gives birth to lamb; explosions on the sun are sending clouds of gas towards earth.
- Art and Culture:** Common’s Foreign Affairs Select Committee to hear case for return of the Elgin Marbles; new film U-571 is accused of rewriting history; Orange book prize authors are decided.
- Transport** Discussions on the privatisation of the UK’s air-traffic control system; new rail survey shows widespread customer dissatisfaction; American style yellow school buses may be introduced in the UK.

**Week Four**  
12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	50	14	29	8	11	3
Tuesday	52	26	0	18	10	8
Wednesday	68	19	3	20	0	3
Thursday	38	15	18	17	27	4
Friday	44	7	32	20	5	5
Saturday	20	10	12	0	24	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>272 min</b>	<b>91 min</b>	<b>94 min</b>	<b>83 min</b>	<b>77 min</b>	<b>26 min</b>

Week Four - Subject Distribution



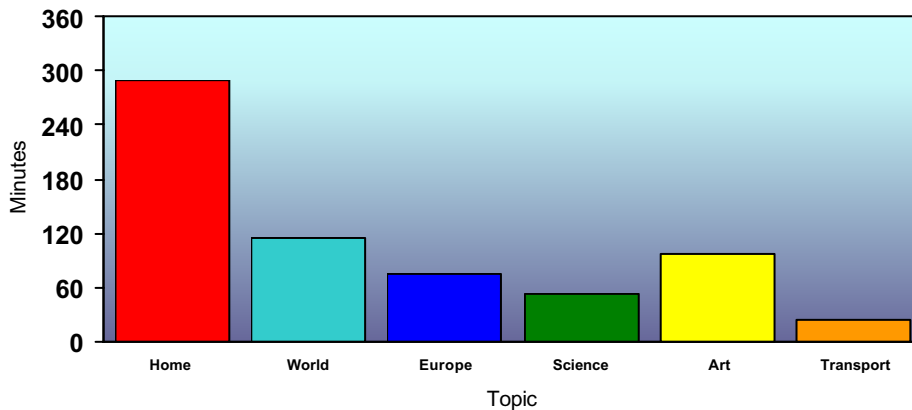
**Main Stories This Week:**

- Home:** Enquiry into Paddington Rail crash; New NHS early warning system to detect problems with Doctors; fox hunting bill to get a free-vote in Parliament; the end of Match of the Day.
- World:** Funeral of President Assad of Syria; first ever summit between North and South Korea; two computer drives containing nuclear secrets have disappeared from the Los Alamos installation.
- European:** Sir Ken Jackson asking the Government to make its policy clear on the Euro, he accuses the Government of ducking the issue; the Chancellor’s Mansion House speech will address issue of the Single Currency.
- Science:** Number of farmers wishing to take part in GM Crop trials has fallen to worryingly low levels; reports that modern lifestyle has changed body shape; UK Life expectancy will rise sharply in the next century.
- Art and Culture:** 24 Contemporary artists have been asked to paint a response to one of their favourite paintings.
- Transport:** Aviation talks, regarding the ‘Open Skies’ policy, and the opening up of routes to more competition.

**Week Five**  
19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	58	3	16	3	34	2
Tuesday	49	9	14	5	32	8
Wednesday	59	10	20	18	13	0
Thursday	51	16	29	5	9	8
Friday	54	43	6	7	4	5
Saturday	18	33	0	15	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>289 min</b>	<b>114 min</b>	<b>75 min</b>	<b>53 min</b>	<b>97 min</b>	<b>23 min</b>

Week Five - Subject Distribution



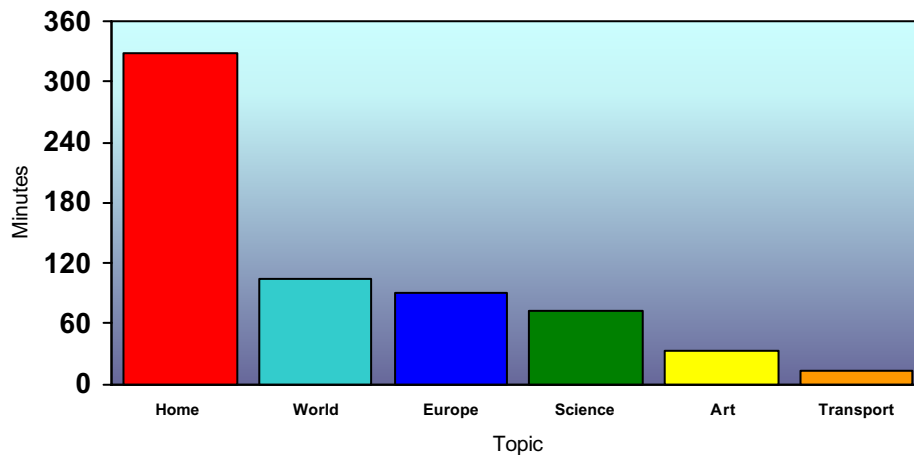
**Main Stories This Week:**

- Home:** Bodies of 58 illegal immigrants found in a lorry in Dover; violence and hooliganism during the Euro 2000 championships; multiple sclerosis sufferers may be denied drug Beta Interferon; nurse being investigated following the deaths of children in her care.
- World:** Fiji hostage crisis continues; Zimbabwe election could see the defeat of Mugabe; youth hostel fire in Brisbane.
- European:** Feira Summit, the scrapping of the Withholding Tax; debate on Schengen Agreement, following the deaths of illegal immigrants at Dover.
- Science:** New British satellite, which can seek out space debris; NASA reveal evidence of recent water flows on Mars; Gene therapy could have side effects
- Art and Culture:** Renovation of the Coliseum in Rome; Druids will be permitted to celebrate the solstice at Stonehenge; BBC publishes annual report. Body Image summit.
- Transport:** Thousands of planes delayed after the central air-traffic control computer failed for the second time in a week; new airbus plane will revolutionise air travel.

**Week Six**  
26<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	49	22	9	18	9	8
Tuesday	49	35	8	21	3	4
Wednesday	67	21	9	9	5	0
Thursday	55	11	32	7	10	0
Friday	65	12	29	14	0	0
Saturday	43	14	4	3	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>328 min</b>	<b>105 min</b>	<b>91 min</b>	<b>72 min</b>	<b>32 min</b>	<b>12 min</b>

Week Six - Subject Distribution



**Main Stories This Week:**

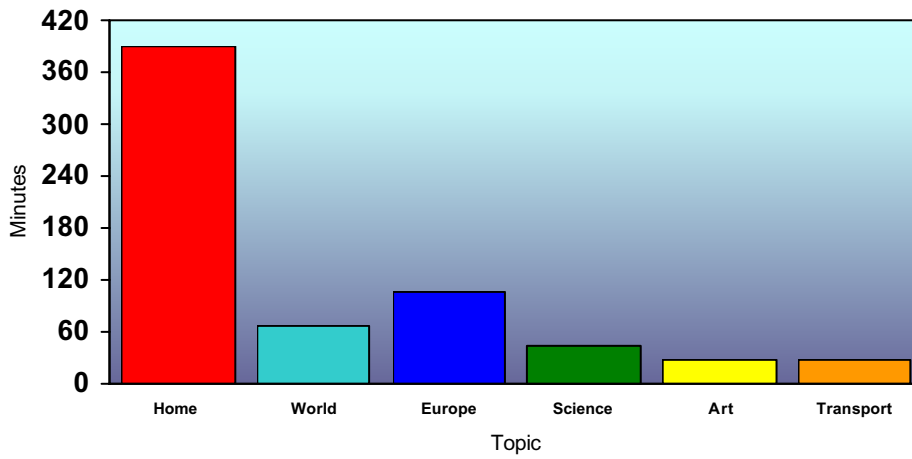
- Home:** Government in difficulty over tax affairs of Lord Levy and Geoffrey Robinson, Mo Mowlam calls for Royals to move into more modern residences; rural post office rescue package announced; petrol protests to be held; spot-fines may be introduced for loutish behaviour.
- World:** Zimbabwe Elections; Elian Gonzales is returned to Cuba; 8 people crushed to death at a rock festival in Denmark.
- European:** *The Sun* calls for Euro referendum; Chirac makes speech to Reichstag which is seen as heralding a two-speed Europe; Tony Blair meets Gerhard Schroeder; Nissan warns "strength of pound" threatens future expansion.
- Science:** Public and private companies make joint announcement on Human Genome.
- Art and Culture:** Latin is becoming more popular in schools; guidelines issued on the press coverage of Prince William as he reaches his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; Creative Britain Award is announced.
- Transport:** French air-traffic control strikes.



**Week Seven**  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	58	23	17	6	0	13
Tuesday	51	20	18	8	12	9
Wednesday	61	0	39	15	6	1
Thursday	97	8	10	7	5	0
Friday	89	2	12	6	0	0
Saturday	33	12	9	2	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>389 min</b>	<b>66 min</b>	<b>105 min</b>	<b>44 min</b>	<b>28 min</b>	<b>28 min</b>

Week Seven - Subject Distribution



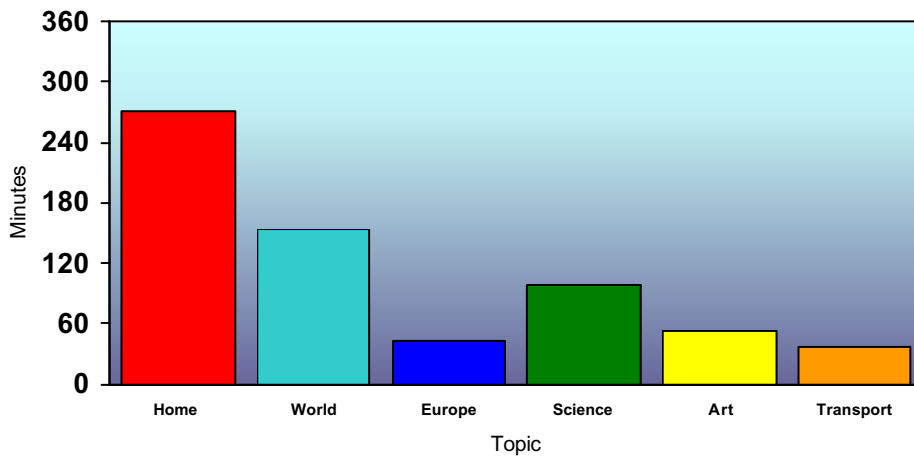
**Main Stories This Week:**

- Home:** Police Chiefs visit Downing Street to discuss new crime measures; Continued controversy over fuel prices; Conservatives to announce new education policy; Hunt for missing schoolgirl, Sarah Payne; Tony Blair’s son, Euan, arrested for drunken behaviour.
- World:** Britain is to call for a world-wide ban on whaling; Jubilee 2000 claim there is a delay in the cancellation of Third World debt; countries make bid for World Cup 2006.
- European:** French take over Presidency of the EU; Senator Gramm floats the idea of Britain turning away from Europe and joining NAFTA; leaked memo from DTI warns of meltdown unless Government is not more positive on the Euro; leaked memo from Japanese Ambassador warns of Japanese firms pulling their investments out of UK if we don’t join Euro.
- Science:** Scientists have discovered key to Salmonella, through use of genetics.
- Art and Culture:** New play opens, dealing with Aboriginal children being taken away from their families.
- Transport:** Trains services will be disrupted over Christmas and New Year.

**Week Eight**  
10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	52	40	6	16	5	0
Tuesday	53	22	11	20	0	9
Wednesday	60	14	11	5	17	6
Thursday	38	24	6	26	8	11
Friday	52	20	2	16	20	10
Saturday	15	34	7	15	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>270 min</b>	<b>154 min</b>	<b>43 min</b>	<b>98 min</b>	<b>52 min</b>	<b>36 min</b>

Week Eight - Subject Distribution



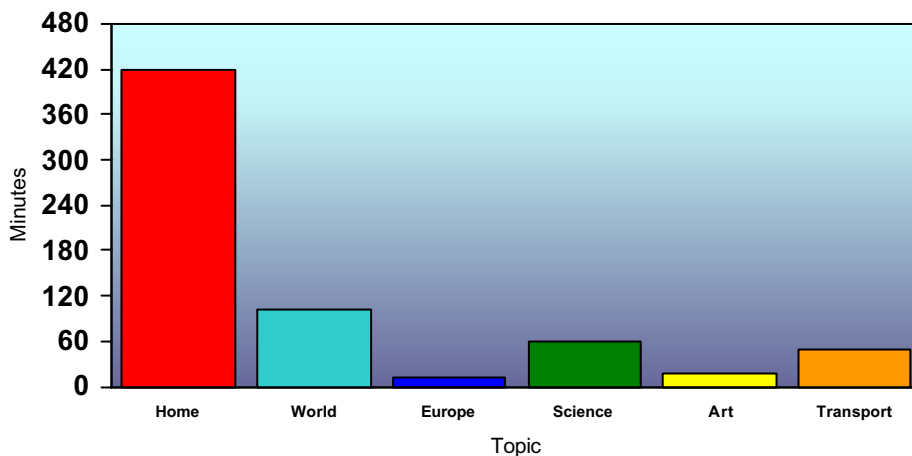
Main Stories This Week:

- Home:** Two nurses suspended after security breach at Broadmoor secure hospital; trouble in Northern Ireland as the marching season reaches its height; new guidelines set minimum nutritional standards for school dinners; Robert Runcie dies; Corus announce further job losses.
- World:** New Zealand delegate abstains from World Cup 2006 vote amid much controversy Aids conference looks at the spread of the disease in Africa; Middle East peace summit at Camp David.
- European:** Austria campaigns to have diplomatic sanctions lifted; Sunderland greengrocer has scales confiscated for selling in imperial measurements, in alleged contravention of EU law.
- Science:** Household carpets could be the main cause of asthma; DNA of 2000 British men to be taken to find out if they have Viking blood.
- Art and Culture:** Countertenors are back in vogue; Government attacked for being Philistine.
- Transport** Councils will be given extra money to improve road safety.

**Week Nine**  
17<sup>th</sup> – 22nd July

	Home	World	Europe	Science	Arts	Transport
Monday	87	12	5	14	0	0
Tuesday	84	9	1	16	4	1
Wednesday	95	10	6	6	0	2
Thursday	51	33	0	15	0	21
Friday	61	19	0	9	8	18
Saturday	42	19	0	0	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>420 min</b>	<b>102 min</b>	<b>12 min</b>	<b>60 min</b>	<b>17 min</b>	<b>49 min</b>

Week Seven - Subject Distribution



**Main Stories This Week:**

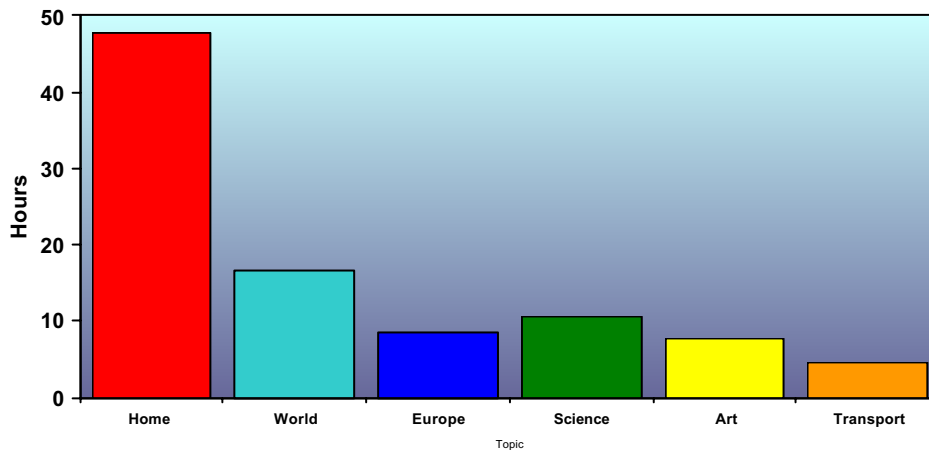
- Home:** Blair Memo leaked to the press; new figures show rise in crime; Comprehensive Spending Review; Catholic Archbishop and paedophile priest; Alex Salmond to stand down as SNP Leader.
- World:** Middle East Peace talks continue; G8 Summit in Japan.
- European:** Meeting of EU Finance Ministers; Tesco to defy EU weights and measures ruling.
- Science:** New contraceptive pill developed for men; CJD cluster more than can be explained as a statistical blip.
- Art and Culture:** *Big Brother* TV show begins.
- Transport:** Government announces largest-ever spending programme for transport.

## Totals

The overall distribution for the nine weeks of the monitoring project was as follows:

<b>Home Affairs</b>	<b>46 hours 36 minutes</b>
<b>World News</b>	<b>16 hours 25 minutes</b>
<b>European News</b>	<b>8 hours 32 minutes</b>
<b>Science and Environment</b>	<b>10 hours 34 minutes</b>
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	<b>7 hours 44 minutes</b>
<b>Transport</b>	<b>4 hours 40 minutes</b>

Total - Subject Distribution



## Percentage of Features according to Subject

