# Casualty to move hospital setting to Wales as BBC seeks authentic Welsh NHS portrayal



Fans of the long-running medical drama *Casualty* have been left reeling following an announcement regarding a significant relocation of the show's setting. The BBC has confirmed plans to transition the narrative from the fictional city of Holby, initially based on Bristol, to a brand-new location in Wales. This marks a second major shift in the show's history since its inception in 1986, aimed at refreshing its appeal as it approaches its 40th anniversary in September 2026.

According to the announcement, the BBC has issued a tender document seeking bids from potential suppliers for goods and services that would facilitate this transition. The tender reinforces the need for an authentic representation of Wales and a reflection of the Welsh National Health Service (NHS). While the BBC asserts that this is not intended as a radical overhaul, the introduction of a new fictional hospital will necessitate careful editorial adjustments. Entrants to the tender will need to demonstrate how they can maintain familiarity while embodying Welsh culture and healthcare realities.

The move has sparked mixed reactions among long-time viewers. Many fans have drawn parallels to the BBC's previous controversial decision to shift the setting of *Waterloo Road* from Rochdale to Greenock, leading some to question the decision's rationale and potential impact. One viewer expressed scepticism on social media, stating, "Ridiculous to expect us to believe that an entire hospital staff would relocate!" Another echoed concerns about the show’s future, suggesting, “They tried to do the same with *Waterloo Road* and no one liked it.”

The decision aligns with broader trends within the BBC concerning regional production. In 2008, the network initiated its 'Out of London' strategy, promoting the decentralisation of television production to increase content created in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. *Casualty* was one of the first shows affected, moving its filming location from Bristol to Cardiff in 2011 with the aim of establishing a sustainable centre for drama production in Wales. Reports indicate that this earlier shift was part of a larger ambition to enhance diverse storytelling within UK television.

As part of the 2011 move, the Roath Lock studios in Cardiff were developed to accommodate significant productions, including *Casualty* and *Doctor Who*. This facility was instrumental in bolstering Wales's profile within the UK media landscape, positioning it as a key hub for network drama. The recent developments indicate an ongoing commitment from the BBC to foster regional production, although the logistics and implications of relocating *Casualty* remain under scrutiny from vocal fans.

Despite reassurances about maintaining Cardiff's connection to the show, the timeline for this transition means audiences will have to wait until as late as 2029 for the new Welsh setting to unfold. As with any major shift in a show’s narrative landscape, the challenge will be balancing innovation with the expectations of a dedicated fan base keen on preserving the essence of what has made *Casualty* a staple in British television.

While the specifics of this relocation project still prompt apprehension among viewers, it underscored an evolving landscape in television production, where authenticity and regional representation are increasingly prioritised. As *Casualty* prepares for this ambitious change, the coming years will reveal if it can successfully navigate the complexities of a new narrative setting while still resonating with its long-standing audience.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/casualty-bbc-holby-wales-b2759078.html), [[2]](https://www.digitalspy.com/media/a150857/bbc-confirms-casualty-move/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/casualty-bbc-holby-wales-b2759078.html), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_%28TV_series%29)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/casualty-bbc-holby-wales-b2759078.html), [[7]](https://www.digitalspy.com/soaps/casualty/a64579320/bbc-confirms-casualty-future-major-change/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.digitalspy.com/media/a150857/bbc-confirms-casualty-move/), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2008/oct/15/bbc-television3), [[4]](https://www.digitalspy.com/media/a197263/casualty-heading-to-new-bbc-wales-centre/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roath_Lock)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/casualty-bbc-holby-wales-b2759078.html), [[2]](https://www.digitalspy.com/media/a150857/bbc-confirms-casualty-move/), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/media/2008/oct/15/bbc-television3)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/casualty-bbc-holby-wales-b2759078.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.digitalspy.com/media/a150857/bbc-confirms-casualty-move/> - In October 2008, the BBC confirmed that 'Casualty' would relocate from Bristol to Cardiff as part of a broader strategy to expand network production in Wales. This move aimed to establish a sustainable centre of excellence for drama in Wales, aligning with the BBC's 'Out of London' initiative to decentralise production and boost regional content. The relocation was subject to funding approval, which was subsequently granted, marking a significant shift in the show's production base after over two decades in Bristol.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2008/oct/15/bbc-television3> - The Guardian reported in October 2008 that the BBC planned to move 'Casualty' from Bristol to Cardiff as part of its 'Out of London' strategy. This initiative aimed to increase network production in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The relocation was contingent on financial approval, with the BBC targeting a 50% increase in network TV shows produced outside London by 2016. The move was intended to refresh the commissioning and production process, bringing diverse voices and stories to the screen.
4. <https://www.digitalspy.com/media/a197263/casualty-heading-to-new-bbc-wales-centre/> - In March 2009, Digital Spy reported that BBC Wales planned to build a new TV production centre at Roath Basin in Cardiff Bay to accommodate productions like 'Casualty' and 'Doctor Who'. The centre aimed to strengthen Wales's reputation as a hub for BBC network drama production, with construction expected to start within six months. This development was part of the BBC's broader strategy to expand network production in Wales and other UK nations.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roath_Lock> - Roath Lock is a television production studio in Cardiff, Wales, housing BBC drama productions such as 'Doctor Who', 'Casualty', and 'Pobol y Cwm'. Opened in September 2011, the facility was built to accommodate 500 to 600 people and was part of the BBC's investment in expanding drama production in Wales. The studio is located on the Porth Teigr development site in Cardiff Bay, which also hosted the 'Doctor Who Experience' exhibition between 2012 and 2017.
6. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty\_(TV\_series)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_%28TV_series%29) - As of May 2025, 'Casualty' is set in the fictional Holby City Hospital, located in the fictional county of Wyvern in the southwest of England. The show has been filmed in Cardiff since 2011, following its relocation from Bristol. A tender issued in May 2025 confirmed plans to move the setting to a new fictional hospital based in Wales from 2027, aligning the show's setting with its production location and aiming to authentically represent the Welsh NHS.
7. <https://www.digitalspy.com/soaps/casualty/a64579320/bbc-confirms-casualty-future-major-change/> - Digital Spy reported that the BBC confirmed the future of 'Casualty' after announcing a major change in its production. The medical drama will be put out to competitive tender, inviting pitches from producers. Despite this change, the BBC reassured fans that 'Casualty' will continue to be filmed in Cardiff and remain an important part of Welsh programming, highlighting the show's significance in Wales's drama production output.