

NEW RADIOPLAYER APP HELPS LISTENERS STAY INFORMED



Radioplayer has upgraded its app with several new features, including a Coronavirus Information button on iOS so that listeners around the world can get the latest news about the pandemic with one tap.

The button automatically searches all of the radio stations in each country, and offers a selection of live news/speech stations and on-demand/podcast programmes that have the word 'coronavirus' in their metadata descriptions. In the UK, the feature is currently exclusive to Apple devices.

The international non-profit radio platform, backed by the BBC and commercial radio, has seen big increases in usage during the coronavirus crisis. UK Radioplayer listener numbers have jumped by 50% between February and March, with similar growth patterns in other Radioplayer countries.

Alongside the Coronavirus Information button, several other innovative features are aimed at making the app easy to use on the move. These include basic voice control (via Siri and Google Assistant), improved Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integrations, and a revolutionary safety system called *Wrong Way Driver Warning*.

Radioplayer has partnered with Bosch for this feature, which warns if there's a driver coming the wrong way towards you on a motorway, or if you are driving in the wrong direction. Every year, dozens of people are killed or injured on the roads as a result of '*wrong way driving*', and Radioplayer is proud to introduce a service aimed at preventing these accidents, as one of the first UK partners with Bosch on this initiative.

Elsewhere in the app, listeners can now see notifications on their phones or tablets when a new episode of their favourite podcast/programme is published. And users can now share what they're listening to with their friends, sending a link which automatically opens the Radioplayer app and immediately streams that station.

Radioplayer MD Michael Hill says: "*There has never been a more important time for radio. During a crisis, people need information, entertainment, news, and a human connection. Radioplayer's always*

been proud to showcase the amazing content produced by our industry, but with our new Coronavirus Information button we can help people stay informed and stay safe as well.”

The new Radioplayer app is available now in the App Store, the Google Play Store, and the Amazon Appstore.

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Notes to Editors

For more press information about Radioplayer please contact: coral.williamson@radiocentre.org.

About UK Radioplayer

Radioplayer, the official pan-industry platform, launched in 2011 in a ground-breaking partnership between the BBC and commercial radio. The not-for-profit organisation now features around 500 UK radio stations – including all BBC national and local services, all major commercial stations, and a selection of community and student radio. For more information see www.radioplayer.co.uk or follow @ukradioplayer on Twitter.

About Radioplayer Worldwide

The 12 countries Radioplayer operates in are: UK, Germany, Spain, Canada, Ireland, Austria, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, and Italy, with more to follow. Radioplayer Worldwide, the global shared radio platform, is a partnership between UK Radioplayer and the countries which have rolled out the Radioplayer model. It was created to explore opportunities for international technological collaboration across radio. For more see www.radioplayerworldwide.org or follow @rpworldwide on Twitter.