**CHANNEL 5 BOLSTER FACTUAL SLATE FOR 2022

TRAVELOGUE ORDERS FOR PAUL MERTON & SUKI WEBSTER, MICHAEL PORTILLO AND PAM AYRES**

**London, Wednesday 25th May 2022:** Channel 5 has announced today a raft of new factual commissions for its 2022 slate. It has greenlit second series for travelogues ***‘Motorhoming with Merton & Webster’ (6 x 60’)*** and **‘*The Cotswolds and Beyond with Pam Ayres’******w/t******(6 x 60’)*** as well as a new series order with one of Britain’s best-loved travel presenters ***‘The Pyrenees with Michael Portillo’*** **w/t (4 x 60’)**.

*‘Motorhoming with Merton & Webster’* and *‘The Pyrenees with Michael Portillo’* will be co-produced by Curve Media and Motion Content Group. Claire Simpson will be serving as Exec Producer for Portillo from Curve and Sarah Swingler for the Merton’s with Martin Oxley for Motion Content Group across both titles. The Mertons was ordered by Kit Morey and Portillo by Daniel Pearl, Commissioning Editors, Factual, Channel 5 & P+. ‘*The Cotswolds with Pam Ayres’* will be produced by True North. The series was commissioned by Lucy Willis Commissioning Editor, Non Scripted UK Originals, Channel 5 & P+and will be exec produced by True North Creative Director Christian Hills.

***‘Motorhoming with Merton & Webster’***will see Paul and Suki set off on the road again to uncover the ultimate guide to all things Motorhoming in Britain. Over six episodes, they’ll delve deeper into this wonderful way to travel and holiday, taking in the sights that the great British outdoors has to offer, tasting local delicacies, meeting fellow Motorhoming enthusiasts and uncovering even more surprising caravanning hacks and secrets.

As he approaches the landmark age of 3 score years and 10, ***‘The Pyrenees with Michael Portillo’*** sees Michael embark on an extraordinary voyage of self-discovery, exploring the dramatic mountain range that straddles the border between France and Spain, the Pyrenees. The four-part series is a real adventure for Michael as he walks a stretch of the 270 mile trail through the Pyrenees, from the Bay of Biscay on the Atlantic coast in the West to the shores of the Mediterranean in the East. In each episode, he’ll be meeting up with locals who will share their knowledge and introduce Michael to all kinds of new experiences, from stargazing at night from a mountain peak, enjoying a delicious Cassoulet, soaking in a hot spring or attempting to spot a lynx.

***‘The Cotswolds and Beyond with Pam Ayres’*** -poet and national treasure Pam Ayres is back for a second adventure around her beloved Cotswolds. But as well as exploring more delights of the place she likes to call her back yard; she’s also venturing further afield too. In this new series Pam will visit some truly amazing places - from royal palaces and Michelin-starred restaurants to stunning gardens, wildlife havens, historic towns and ancient monuments.

As well as more fabulous sights in the Cotswolds, Pam’s travels will take her into the Malvern Hills, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Stonehenge, Oxford and Weston-Super-Mare, to name just a few places on her itinerary. As ever, she’ll be meeting the people who are passionate about where they live, including some very famous faces along the way.

**Lucy Willis, Commissioning Editor, Non Scripted UK Originals, Channel 5 & P+ said**: “*I’m delighted to be working with Pam for a second series of the Cotswolds. Her warmth and enthusiasm shine through on screen and she’s quickly become a firm favourite with the Channel 5 viewers.”*

**Daniel Pearl, Commissioning Editor, Factual, Channel 5 & P+ added:** *“This latest series is so much more than a travelogue – for Michael, this extraordinary journey will be a real moment of adventure, but also self-reflection as he approaches a landmark moment in his life. I’m looking forward to seeing the series come to air later on this year.”*

*‘Motorhoming with Merton & Webster’* & *‘The Cotswolds and Beyond with Pam Ayres’* will begin filming later on this year. All three series are set to transmit on Channel 5 in 2022.

 **-ENDS-**

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**About Channel 5**

Channel 5 is a public service broadcaster and the UK’s third largest commercial TV station. Launched in March 1997, Channel 5 has been part of Paramount Global (formerly ViacomCBS) since its acquisition in September 2014.

Channel 5 and its digital brands – 5STAR, 5USA, 5Select, 5ACTION and the on-demand service My5 – offer a diverse range of issue-led documentaries & popular factual celebrating the British countryside and drawing talent to the channel, accessible history, premium drama and critically-acclaimed children’s, news and current affairs programming. Through its agenda-driving commissions, Channel 5 leads on societal issues from inequality to homelessness and mental health, aiming to tell the story of modern Britain by reflecting the lives of people across the nation.

In 2018, Channel 5 won its first BAFTA for Cruising with Jane McDonald. The following year, Raped: My Story won best Single Documentary at RTS. In 2020, it won Channel of the Year at the Broadcast Awards and by the RTS. In addition that year, it secured its first ever Grierson award win in the ‘Best Single Documentary – Domestic’ category with Suicidal: In Our Own Words. In 2021, it won best factual entertainment at the Broadcast Awards for Springtime on the Farm. It also won best drama at Voice of the Listener & Viewer for All Creatures Great & Small the same year.

**About Curve Media**

Curve Media is a leading UK unscripted production company led by award-winning producers Rob Carey and Camilla Lewis. With permanent production bases in London and Cardiff, Curve Media specialise in high quality, long-running factual and entertainment shows for the world’s best content platforms.

**About True North**

True North is the biggest factual production company in the North of England, with a stand-out track record in devising and delivering long-running, returning series and entertaining formats for all UK broadcasters.

With bases in Leeds and Manchester, True North makes compelling content that's watched in almost every territory in the world, working across genres including factual, factual-entertainment, features, children’s, reality and more.

Since 2017, True North has been part of the Sky Studios stable of production companies.

**About Motion Content Group**

Motion Content Group funds, develops, produces, and distributes both original and third-party premium content to create value and opportunities for its partners and advertisers.  Working with the world’s leading talent, producers and distributors Motion aims to support the editorial, creative and commercial requirements of over 200 networks and platforms.  Headquartered in London and Los Angeles, Motion currently operates in over 30 countries worldwide and has a broad range of award-winning programming distributed globally.

Motion Content Group is part of GroupM, the world’s leading full-service media investment management operation, a WPP company.

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