Draft 1 – Press release for the Wikipedia article on Bristol appearing on the front page 7th March 2016

**Bristol to feature on the front page of Wikipedia on 7 March.**

Bristol will appear on the front page of Wikipedia on 7 March 2016. This is likely to be seen by hundreds of thousands of internet users in a 24 hour period. The article is read by approximately 2,500 – 3,000 people on an average day, but when it appears on the front page this is likely to jump to over 100,000 internet users from all over the world.

The article is constantly changing but covers the history and geography of the city along with details of boundaries and governance. Figures for the demography, economy and industry are also included. The cultural side of the city is also covered with information about the arts and architecture, sport, media, dialect and religion. It is supported by pictures drawn from wikicommons (a sister project).

The Wikipedia article about Bristol was started in January 2002 and has been edited over 4,500 times but over 1,600 different editors. It has been through a range of peer review and quality assurance processes and eventually became a “featured article” (wikipedia’s highest quality level) on 31 December 2015. There are also articles about Bristol on over 50 other language wikipedias, with the Polish wikipedia’s article on the city also achieving Featured Article status.

The article is the top priority for WikiProject Bristol a collection of around 50 people who edit articles related to the city, who collaborate online and occasionally meet face to face. There are around 1,500 relevant articles, a few of which have reached featured article status, however many others ranging from geography and history to sport, music and biography still need a lot of improvement. There are also local sights which still need photographs. Anyone interested in helping to improve wikipedia’s coverage of the city is invited to get involved.

The push to get the article to featured status was led by Rod Ward, a senior lecturer at the University of the West of England, who edits Wikipedia articles about Bristol and Somerset in his spare time.

**Notes for editors**

The Wikipedia article about Bristol appears at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol>

WikiProject Bristol can be found at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Bristol>

Wikipedia is much more than a website. Wikipedia and its sister Wikimedia projects represent a global, ever-expanding resource and community for free knowledge. Here are just a few examples:

* Wikipedia started in January 2001 in English, but soon expanded to other languages—within the first year, it grew to 18 languages. Today, it is available in nearly 300.
* Volunteers constantly edit and improve Wikipedia. Every hour, roughly 15,000 edits are made to Wikipedia. Every day, around 7,000 new articles are created.
* Wikipedia became one of the top 10 websites in the world in 2007, and the only non-profit website anywhere near the top.
* It’s not just Wikipedia. There are 11 other Wikimedia free knowledge projects, including [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/), with more than 30 million freely licensed images, as well as [Wiktionary](https://wiktionary.org/), [Wikisource](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/" \o "s:), [Wikivoyage](https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/), and more.
* Volunteers around the world have built hundreds of partnerships with galleries, libraries, museums to make institutional collections more broadly available. These partnerships have contributed to more than 1.5 million images of cultural works on the Wikimedia projects.

**About Wikipedia**

Wikipedia is the world’s free knowledge resource. It is a collaborative creation that has been added to and edited by millions of people from around the globe since it was created in 2001: anyone can edit it, at any time. Wikipedia is offered in hundreds of languages containing a total of more than 36 million articles, and visited by nearly half a billion people every month. Wikimedia and its sister projects are the largest collection of free knowledge in human history.