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**Jaz Dhami - British Asian artist/singer**  
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News of further cuts and changes at the BBC Asian Network have been brought to my attention, which are of great concern to me - both as a listener and as an artist who is reliant on the BBC Asian Network as an artist.

The BBC Asian Network was the only platform that believed in me as an artist from the beginning of my career in 2008-2009. The exposure the presenters and producers at the station gave me propelled me to homes of hundreds and thousands of people as well as other media outlets.

I don't believe they would have been able to do that had they not had the resources to scope out talent and work closely with newcomers in the UK Asian Music scene.

Since the cuts in 2011-2012 the Asian Network has significantly reduced its relationship with the British Asian music scene as compared to Bollywood, I believe this is a direct knock on effect from the lack of staff available.

I have been very lucky that due to my success and initial exposure I have managed to be part of some of the great events the BBC Asian Network has been part of, without them I could only dream of having achieved those platforms. Saying that, I as an artist feel I represent Asian Network in a dignified and proud manner whenever given the opportunity to perform for them, whether it be for BBC Music God Only Knows project or BBC Music Day with the Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

All this is only possible with the hard work and dedication of the staff at Asian Network who work relentlessly to pull off such great events with limited resources. To hear that an editorial post is being lost worries me as I have seen the change on the pressures of the staff in the past three years, this is only going to further add to that.

With regards to moving an entire show like Bobby Frictions to London doesn't make any sense to me - as the main centre of the Asian Music scene is Birmingham, his show is realistically the only real platform artists like myself have

to share our content and views. With the Midlands having such a big Asian community it is essential we have the biggest show coming from the region. The London shows have already lost an element of a connection the audiences outside of London, this will only further work to isolate them.

I was fortunate to have released music and made it at the period I did - I did this with the support of the Asian Network, unfortunately new talented artists aren't getting a look in as the staff at the station are so overworked. I really hope the BBC doesn't get rid of any roles, but in fact invests some more money into more specialists at the station to enhance its music output and live events coverage.

The station and its focal point being in Birmingham is crucial to the success, existence and status of artists like myself.

**Jaz Dhani**