



MEDIA

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ALL THE HOT GOSSIP ABOUT MEDIA POLICY AND IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVES.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES BROADCASTING WHITE PAPER

CHANNEL 4 TO BE PRIVATISED

TALK TV LAUNCHES IN THE UK

NEW OFCOM CHAIR
ANNOUNCED

INDUSTRY REACTS
TO PRIVATISATION OF
CHANNEL 4

ADOBE'S CONTENT
AUTHENTICITY INITIATIVE

NEW CHANNEL 4 CHAIR
ANNOUNCED

I would like to welcome you all to the first All-Party Parliamentary Media Group newsletter of 2022.

Over the last two years, Parliament has focused on managing a global pandemic, but in the first four months of this year, attention has turned to the dire situation in Ukraine. The unjustified military invasion of Ukraine has resulted in the UK, the US and many other countries around the world imposing sanctions on Russia.

The situation is devastating, and the disparate coverage of events has reinforced the importance of accurate, trusted, and reliable news reporting. Citizens must be able to better understand dangerous disinformation and inauthentic content. That is why industry initiatives, such as the Content Authenticity Initiative, are so important.

With the Government's plans to privatise Channel 4 confirmed in the recently-published

Broadcasting White Paper and the Online Safety Bill making its way through Parliament, the rest of this year looks to be hugely significant for the media industry. The Government will also carry out a mid-term review of the BBC Charter. As always, the Group will continue to keep on top of developments and seek to provide an open forum for discussion within Parliament.

Andy Carter MP
Chair of the Media APPG

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS

NEW OFCOM CHAIR ANNOUNCED

On 1st April, following a pre-appointment hearing with the DCMS Select Committee, Lord Grade was confirmed as the new Chair of Ofcom, from 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2026. He is non-executive Chairman of Talent Bank and of the production company, StoryFirst. He is also on the advisory board of Miroma SET (formerly R4E Plc), a media and entertainment marketing company and co-founded Gradelinnit, a theatrical production company.

NEWS UK LAUNCHES BRAND NEW CHANNEL

News UK's newest venture, TalkTV, launched in the UK on Sky, Virgin Media, Freeview and Freesat on Monday 25th April 2022. Piers Morgan's show, Piers Morgan Uncensored, also launched globally via Fox News in the US and Sky News in Australia on the same day. Scott Taunton, EVP, President of Broadcasting, News UK said: "TalkTV will be a new voice for viewers who are interested in straight talking opinions and expert insight on news and current affairs. Our launch schedule should get the nation talking and bring new choice to viewers in the market."

CHANNEL 4 TO BE PRIVATISED

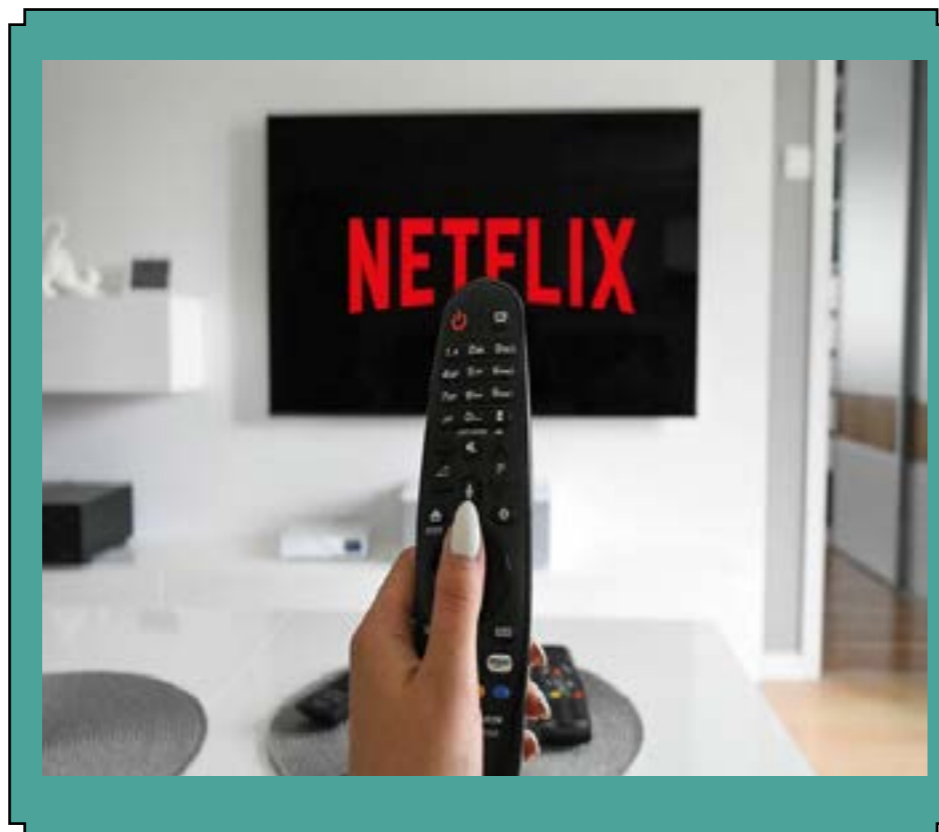
On 4th April, Secretary of State Nadine Dorries confirmed the Government's intention to proceed with the privatisation of Channel 4. She said that government ownership is "holding Channel 4 back" from competing with media giants such as Netflix and Amazon. She said that the proceeds of the sale will go into levelling up the creative sector and investing in independent production and creative skills.

NEW CHANNEL 4 CHAIR ANNOUNCED

On 4th April, Ofcom announced that Sir Ian Cheshire has been appointed as the next Chair of Channel 4. He is currently Chair of Spire Healthcare plc, Chair of the environmental investment trust Menhaden plc, and a non-executive director of BT plc. He joined Channel 4's Board on 11th April.

MEDIA GROUP JOINS FORCES WITH ADOBE

On 1st February, the Group held a parliamentary briefing in collaboration with Adobe on the work of the [Content Authenticity Initiative \(CAI\)](#). Adobe launched the CAI in 2019 with Twitter and the New York Times with the aim of working to promote adoption of an open industry standard for content authenticity and provenance to empower citizens to decide whether to trust the digital content they consume.



PACT REACTS TO THE PRIVATISATION OF CHANNEL 4

The Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (Pact) have issued [this statement](#) on the Government's plans to privatise Channel 4. The statement reads: "Privatising Channel 4 is unnecessary and risks damaging the UK's world-beating independent TV and film production sector... This is a levelling down agenda, not levelling up, with big businesses being the ultimate winners to the cost of small, regional indies. Pact will continue to work hard to persuade the Government that it isn't too late for them to think again."

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS

ONLINE COMPETITION AND DIGITAL MARKETS

On 24th March, the Group held its annual general meeting, welcoming a new Member to the Group, Lord Strathcarron. The AGM was then followed by an engaging and informative [debate](#) on the topic 'Unleashing innovation: does competition online matter for UK media?' Speakers included the Chief Executive of the CMA, Dr Andrea Coscelli and Baroness Harding, Member of the House of Lords Communications and Digital Committee. I

The event was a very timely discussion as we await the introduction of legislation to formally establish the Digital Markets Unit, which will oversee a new regulatory regime for news platforms and big tech, including Google, Facebook, and Apple.



GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES LONG-AWAITED BROADCASTING WHITE PAPER

The long-awaited [Broadcasting White Paper](#) was published on 28th April. The paper was published alongside the Government's response to the Digital, Radio and Audio Review, the response to the consultation on a change of ownership of Channel 4 Television Corporation, and the response to the consultation on audience protection standards on Video-On-Demand services.

Included within the Broadcasting White Paper are plans to freeze the price of the TV licence at £159 for two years, introduce a new prominence regime for on-demand television and carry out a review of the licence free funding model ahead of the next Charter period in the future. The Government also set out its intention to consult in early 2023 on new proposals to champion the community radio sector.

See the Government's press release [here](#) and the response from Julian Knight, DCMS Committee Chair [here](#).

Get in on the action: Join our APPG

Get yourself a seat at the table and a platform for your views - become a member of the Media APPG.



Benefits of membership include:

- Access and influence media policy with parliamentarians & policymakers
- Organise events in parliament with the Group
- Attendance and visibility at all Group events
- Six invites to the industry event of the year: the Group's annual reception
- Acknowledgement on all Group digital and print materials
- Opportunities to contribute to our blog and feature on this newsletter
- Parliamentary engagement supported by the Group's Secretariat
- A listing in the Parliamentary Register of APPG

The All-Party Parliamentary Media Group: enriching and informing debate and policy.

To find out more information or to join our group, email hello@appgmedia.org and follow us on Twitter @APPGMedia

Feel free to forward this on to anyone you think would be interested. We welcome guest blogs and enquires about upcoming events.



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The Secretariat for the APPMG is run by Whitehouse Communications. To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email STOP to hello@appgmedia.org.