



MEDIA

ALL THE HOT GOSSIP ABOUT MEDIA POLICY AND IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVES.

THE LONG-AWAITED DRAFT MEDIA BILL IS PUBLISHED



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I would like to dedicate this edition of the Media Times to welcoming the government's long-awaited Draft Media Bill which has now been published, setting the tone for what is becoming a year of huge significance for the media industry. I welcome the announcements made by DCMS on the Media Bill, and I'm very pleased to see that the Government is supporting British broadcasters to compete with international firms and big tech competitors. The Draft Bill marks

an important milestone in plans to modernise not only legislation for our public service broadcasters, but also radio provisions, ensuring that all parts of the private sector are covered.

In the ever-growing and complicated streaming media landscape, the battle to attract and retain audiences is becoming increasingly challenging, and changes to viewing habits have put traditional broadcasters under unprecedented pressure.

As the Bill progresses through Parliament, this Group will continue to work alongside industry experts to promote the very best of the media sector and ensure its continual growth and development. 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

NEWS UK DISCUSS THE IMPACTS OF GENERATIVE AI

In a [recent article for The Times](#), Angus McBride, General Counsel of News UK, warns about the wide-ranging impacts of generative AI, and the effects that this technology could have on journalism if left unchecked. The article explains that when asked about the source of its news-based responses, ChatGPT replied that the material was gleaned from more than 20 major news publishers, and none of the material had been used with permission; nor had any of the publishers been remunerated for the use of their content. Mr McBride stresses the importance of getting ahead of the curve on regulation. He highlights the important role of the recently established Digital Markets Unit (DMU) and the publication of the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill to regulate the most powerful digital firms. He also calls for political parties to grapple with the long-term impact of digital technology on the dissemination of information, news, and opinion.



GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES THE LONG-AWAITED DRAFT MEDIA BILL

Included in the Background Briefing Notes to the Queen's Speech of 10 May 2022, the long-awaited Draft Media Bill was finally published on 29 March. The Draft Bill will implement the Government's plans to modernise broadcasting legislation and introduce wide-ranging reforms to the regulatory environment for public service broadcasters (PSBs) and, more broadly, video-on-demand (VOD) services, to support public service broadcasters to better compete with streaming giants.

The Bill follows a White Paper published in April 2022 which had set out the proposals for reform and noted that the wealth of choice being offered by streaming platforms, as well as the revolution in technology that has been enabled those platforms, placed pressure on traditional broadcasters competing for the attention of viewers.

The Bill addresses prominence for PSBs, removes restrictions for Channel 4, gives Ofcom powers to enforce more regulation on Video-on-Demand services, and plans to modernise the radio licensing framework.

The full Draft Bill can be found [here](#), and the explanatory memorandum can be found [here](#).

THE MEDIA GROUP HOSTS ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

In March, the Media Group, held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), in which Andy Carter MP was re-elected as Chair.

Our Annual Report and Minutes from the AGM can be found on our [website](#).

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES ITS WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The [Wireless Infrastructure Strategy](#) has been published, a policy framework designed to drive deployment and adoption of 5G and advanced wireless connectivity; and the government's 5G strategy for the UK. The strategy includes an investment package worth almost £150 million to boost 5G tech take-up, and an ambition to deliver standalone 5G to all populated areas by 2030.

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS

TAYLOR WESSING JOINS THE MEDIA GROUP

A warm welcome to Taylor Wessing as our newest sponsor of the Group! Taylor Wessing is a global law firm that serves the world's most innovative people and businesses. They are ingrained in the technology, media and communications sectors, and they advise a range of companies.

OFCOM UPDATES THE BBC'S OPERATING LICENCE

Ofcom has [updated the BBC's operating licence](#) to reflect the changing way viewers are watching its content. The licence sets "comprehensive new requirements" on the BBC's online services. It is introducing more than 70 quotas on the BBC's TV and radio services to ensure it delivers a minimum volume of content such as news and current affairs, and original UK programmes. Ofcom has assured that the updated licence demands a "step-change" from the corporation by imposing transparency as a core obligation, following concerns over a lack of detail and clarity provided by the BBC around planned changes to its programmes and services.

OFCOM PUBLISHES ITS PLAN OF WORK FOR 2023/24

Ofcom has published its [annual plan of work for 2023/24](#), outlining areas of work. The plan outlines Ofcom's priority outcomes, which are:

- Internet we can rely on
- Media we trust and value
- Living a safer life online
- Enabling wireless services in the wider economy.



NEWSNOW AND PUBLIC INTEREST NEWS FOUNDATION (PINF) PUBLISH THE REPORT OF THEIR LOCAL NEWS PLANS PROJECT

In March, PINF and NewsNow joined forces with the Media Group to host a breakfast briefing following the launch of their local news plans project.

In Between September 2022 and January 2023, PINF worked in collaboration with NewsNow to create 'Local News Plans' with local communities in Bangor, Bristol, Folkestone, Glasgow, Manchester and Newry. They have now published the full Local News Plans project report, which proposes a new approach to supporting local news, based on the principles of community wealth building. The report recommends that funders and policymakers aim to maximise the social, democratic and economic value of local news to local communities.

The full report can be found [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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News UK



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