



MEDIA

ALL THE HOT GOSSIP ABOUT MEDIA POLICY AND IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVES.

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MEDIA GROUP JOINS FORCES WITH PACT

MEDIA GROUP'S ANNUAL RECEPTION 2023

I would like to welcome you all to the first All-Party Parliamentary Media Group newsletter of 2023. As we welcome in the New Year, this edition will provide a round-up of the key developments in the media sector in 2022.

The year 2022 saw the tragic passing of her Majesty the Queen. A combined audience of around 16 million people were watching the BBC, ITV and Sky News at 6.30pm on Thursday evening when the news of the Queen's

death was formally announced. It is during these times when we are reminded of the vital role of the media and our public service broadcasters. That is why reviews like the BBC Mid-Term Charter Review are essential in ensuring the sustainability of these services and I look forward to these developments.

Last year saw major developments for the media industry, with the Government's announcement to bring forward the Digital Markets

Competition and Consumer Bill, the Online Safety Bill returning to Parliament, and the announcement of Government funding to help scale up creative initiatives. We are expecting the first half of this year to be hugely significant for the media industry, and, as ever, the Media Group will be seeking to provide an open forum for discussion on these issues within Parliament.

Andy Carter MP
Chair of the Media APPG

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS

OFCOM APPOINTS NEW GROUP DIRECTOR FOR ONLINE SAFETY

Gill Whitehead, a former Google executive and one of the UK's senior leaders in data and technology, is joining Ofcom to oversee its new duties as the regulator for online safety.

Gill will lead Ofcom's Online Safety Group from April 2023, reporting to Chief Executive Dame Melanie.

OUR CHAIR ANDY CARTER SPEAKS OUT ON LOCAL TV ISSUES

Following recent announcements of cuts to BBC local radio, the value of local news provision has been a key point of debate in Parliament, with many MPs speaking out and addressing what the loss of local radio would mean for their constituents.

In a [recent article](#) published in Conhome, Media APPG Chair Andy Carter speaks out on the value of Local TV and opportunities for the sector.

The article makes the case for an expedited renewal process for local television licenses, giving due credit to their critical role in the public service media ecosystem.

THE ONLINE SAFETY BILL RETURNS TO PARLIAMENT

After a long delay, the Online Safety Bill returned to Parliament on Monday 5 December. The reintroduction of the bill comes with a number of elements designed to soften objections on the grounds of free speech. While it will finish its interrupted Report Stage on 5 December based on the model introduced by the Johnson regime, the Sunak regime has seen a number of amendments to the Bill. The full list of amendments can be found [here](#).

One amendment would focus the legal but harmful limits only on child protection, while another abandons attempts to replace the old "malicious communications" offence with a new "harmful communications" one. It is expected that the Bill will return to committee stage to give MPs the chance to scrutinise amendments implementing the most significant of the Sunak-era policy changes. It will then most likely go to the Lords in the new year.

See the Government's press release [here](#) and a Written Ministerial Statement from Michelle Donelan, Secretary of State for DCMS [here](#).

THE PUBLIC INTEREST NEWS FOUNDATION DISCUSS THE LOCAL NEWS PLAN

In our [latest blog](#), Jonathan Heawood, Executive Director of the Public Interest News Foundation (PINF) describes the scale of the local journalism crisis and discusses the new Local News Plan, a joint project with NewsNowUK to strengthen public interest news in local communities.

MEDIA GROUP JOINS FORCES WITH RADIOCENTRE

On Tuesday 22 November, the APPG hosted an event in collaboration with Radiocentre on digital gatekeeping and the future of media. The event kicked off with an opening speech from our Chair Andy Carter MP, followed by insightful discussions from panellists regarding the Digital Competition Bill and other upcoming policy developments.



NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS

MEDIA GROUP'S ANNUAL RECEPTION 2023

The Media Group will be hosting its Annual Reception on the 17th of January 2023. The event is a must-attend event in the media calendar, sponsored by Bauer, Camelot, Global, NewsNow, News UK, Pact, ScreenSkills, Westminster Media Forum, and Whitehouse Communications and attended by leaders across the sector.

MEDIA GROUP JOINS FORCES WITH PACT

The Media Group will be hosting a breakfast briefing alongside Pact - the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television - on The children's television sector in the UK: how to tackle the decline in children's content. will be unveiling the results of their latest research project into the state of the UK's children's television sector, and based on their latest research they will present proposals for an enhancement of the existing children's and animation tax credit. an immediate actionable plan to help



OFCOM PUBLISH FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BBC

Ofcom have published their fifth [Annual Report on the BBC](#) in which they assess the BBC's performance against all areas of their regulation and set out how they have carried out their role. One of the main findings from the report is that people in lower socio-economic groups – who account for almost a quarter of the UK population – are less engaged and less satisfied with the BBC.

GOVERNMENT BRING FORWARD THE DIGITAL COMPETITION BILL

The government is bringing forward the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill to provide new powers to the 'Digital Markets Unit' (DMU) in the CMA to foster more competitive digital markets; make changes to the competition framework that will include streamlined decision making and updating merger and fine thresholds; and protect consumers in fast-moving markets by tackling 'subscription traps' and fake reviews online.

ALL3MEDIA AND THREE JOIN THE ALL PARTY MEDIA GROUP

A warm welcome to All3Media and 3 as our newest sponsors of the All Party Media Group!

[All3Media](#) is a world leading independent production and distribution group with an unrivalled track record of producing popular and critically acclaimed IP. Working across all genres, their focus is on innovation and creative excellence.

[Three](#) launched in 2003 as the UK's first 3G only network, laying its foundations as the network that was born to be different. Today, Three is a connectivity company that connects people to people, people to things and things to things and has 9.5 million customers.

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.

NEWS NOW



News UK



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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.