



MEDIA

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All the hot gossip about media policy and important perspectives.

NEW SECRETARY OF STATE APPOINTED



MEDIA MINGLING RETURNS WITH ANNUAL RECEPTION

DRIVE FOR NATIONS & REGIONS

NEWS UK TO LAUNCH TALKTV

BBC REVIVES WATERLOO ROAD

COST OF PANDEMIC REVEALED

HOW TO TACKLE THE OFF- SCREEN SKILLS GAP



I would like to use this issue of the Media Times to extend a warm welcome to the new DCMS Secretary of State Nadine Dorries. Her work as a bestselling author and her time in front of the camera on Tower Block of Commons and I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here brings a wealth of real-world experience in the industry. Blending this with her previous work as a nurse and, later on, as minister for mental health and suicide prevention, I'm very much looking forward to seeing how she brings this

frontline wisdom to the ongoing and pressing issue of online harms. As we enter autumn, it's incredibly exciting to know that we will all once more be able to meet in person. Those of you attending the Party Conference – it would be a delight to meet you. For those how aren't, I will of course see you at our Annual Reception, returning this year to the Palace of Westminster. With news of booster jabs to control the spread of Covid-19 in the winter months announced

this month, it is with cautious reassurance and optimism that we continue that most important of conversations: the recovery of the industry. There's no doubt that the media sector was both heavily relied upon yet suffered a financial blow - the industry must be supported by the government if we are to retain the news and entertainment the country so desperately depends upon.



Andy Carter MP
Chair of the Media APPG

NEWS & VIEWS.

LBC WELCOME NEW SCOTLAND POLITICAL EDITOR

Gina Davidson has been [appointed to the brand-new role of Scotland Political Editor at LBC](#). A multi-award winning journalist, she joins LBC from The Scotsman and brings experience in television. Her appointment "re-affirms Global's commitment to investing in and delivering quality journalism across the UK," says LBC's Managing Editor Tom Cheal.

NEWS UK TO LAUNCH BRAND NEW CHANNEL

News UK has announced [the launch of a new channel, talkTV](#), in early 2022. The channel will be streamed live, offering a mix of hourly news bulletins, sports, entertainment, current affairs, debate, opinions and documentaries - and will lead to new talent hires. Rebekah Brooks, Chief Executive of News UK, said: "We are committed to providing choice for television and streaming viewers and bringing the best of our journalism to the screen. Taking advantage of modern technology, we can produce high quality shows at low cost."

WATERLOO ROAD RETURNS TO NORTH WEST

BBC One have confirmed that Waterloo Road will be returning to our screens, [and will be set in Greater Manchester](#). Underlining the commitment to create more television programmes across the UK, the return of this award-winning drama to the North West will boost production skills in the area and reshape BBC content to be reflective of the whole country.



Disability on-screen in early years programming, and focus on regional production - a great month for the television sector!

PACT REVEAL PANDEMIC PUNCH

Pact's latest research has revealed that the independent TV production sector suffered a 14% decline to £2.9 billion since the pandemic – the lowest figure since 2017. The trade association has voiced concerns over the sale of Channel 4 on the industry, predicting a further £3.7 billion loss over the next decade. [Read more here.](#)

TACKLING THE OFF-SCREEN SKILLS GAP

There is a pressing skills challenge right now at the mid- to senior-level, says ScreenSkills. Utilising their [Leaders of Tomorrow and Film Forward schemes](#), they hope to bridge the gap and keep the sector moving. Kaye Elliott, Director of High-end Television, said: "We know it is key that industry not only invests in bringing new people in, but also provides effective support to move people up into leadership and management roles."

UPCOMING EVENTS.



The Media APPG annual reception returns this October!

WMF: The Future of UK Film

Morning, 29th November

The Westminster Media Forum will be holding a full-scale policy conference on the future of UK film - exploring how to tackle the potential tests which lie ahead of the industry such as the current state of play, priorities for sector recovery, future financing models, and addressing skills deficits, as well as the wider challenge of realising the international potential of the UK's film sector.

Ben Roberts, CEO of the BFI will be joined by Founder of Dan Films Julie Baines who is also a Co-Chair of Pact.

For more information on how to attend, [please click here.](#)

THE MEDIA APPG PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION RETURNS 26TH OCTOBER, 7.30 PM

After a tumultuous 18 months, we are delighted that our annual reception is returning to the Palace of Westminster this year. The hottest event in the media industry calendar, the annual reception is the perfect place for media companies to network with engaged policy influencers.

Due to coronavirus restrictions limiting numbers, this year's event will be invite only on a first come, first served basis.

Kevin Bakhurst, Group Director for Broadcasting and Online Content, will be joining as a guest speaker, and we're very much looking forward to hearing his views on the latest issues affecting the sector. Newly appointed Secretary of State Nadine Dorries has been invited to attend as a guest speaker also.

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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