The NUJ Parliamentary Group was formed by the union and supportive parliamentarians in 2003. Although some supportive members were lost during the General Election of 2010 others have joined so that the current membership stands at 32 MPs and Peers on a cross-party basis. The Group is chaired by Austin Mitchell and meets every two months or so with the NUJ General Secretary and officers whilst Parliament is sitting to address a programme of issues decided by the union. Work is carried out in Westminster on a daily basis with the parliamentary team in constant liaison with NUJ Head Office. Since its formation the Group has established a considerable reputation in Parliament, meeting with Ministers and outside organisations and briefing MPs with the latest information regarding the various issues affecting NUJ members.

This brief summary covers the period between the House of Commons returning from summer recess in September 2011 until the rise of the House in July 2012. The Commons was in session for the following dates:

- 5th September 2011 – 15th September 2011
- 10th October 2011 – 15th November 2011
- 21st November 2011 – 20th December 2011
- 10th January 2012 – 9th February 2012
- 20th February 2012 – 27th March 2012
- 16th April 2012 – 1st May 2012 (end of the 2010-12 Parliamentary session)
- 9th May 2012 (Queen’s Speech/beginning of 2012-13 Parliamentary session)
- 9th May 2012 – 24th May 2012
- 11th June 2012 – 17th July 2012

The Parliamentary Group met on several occasions throughout the year. Group meetings were held on 6th September 2011, 19th October 2011, 8th February 2012, 17th April 2012 and 26th June 2012. The Parliamentary Group will meet again on 7th November 2012.

The Group hosted public meetings in Parliament on the protection of journalists’ sources on 19th April 2012 and on the alternative to cuts at the BBC entitled Future of the BBC on 10th July 2012. A briefing meeting for MPs on Johnston Press will be held in Parliament on 16th October 2012.

The Group has written to Ashley Highfield, Chief Executive of Johnston Press for discussions on the local newspaper industry; to the Home Secretary regarding far-right intimidation of journalists; to the Foreign Secretary over the relocation of journalists from Kenya to Somalia; and to the Chairman of Trinity Mirror over proposed job losses at the newspaper group.

The Group Secretary, John McDonnell MP, delivered the Parliamentary Report to the NUJ Executive on 14th October 2011, 9th March 2012 and 20th July 2012.
NUJ Parliamentary Group MPs were active in raising a number of issues throughout the course of this report. Interventions were made on production orders, the BBC, local newspapers and the safety of journalists abroad.

Detailed briefing material and NUJ press releases have been distributed to the NUJ Parliamentary Group and more widely on a range of subjects, including Leveson; protection of sources & production orders; forthcoming legislation: Defamation Bill; Communications Data Bill; Justice & Security Bill; Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill; Johnston Press and local papers; BBC – The Alternative to Cuts; International: Ukraine; Somalia; proposed EU Regulation; Associated Press & pensions and unpaid internships.

Group members tabled EDMs on a number of issues including BBC Scotland, job cuts at Trinity Mirror, the BBC World Service, media standards and interns. A summary of the EDMs tabled since the last Annual Report can be found below, and a full list of EDMs and MPs signatures can be seen in the annex.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>List of EDMs tabled over the course of this report</th>
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<td>2410    British Journalist Held by Israel</td>
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<td>2462    Local and Regional Newspapers</td>
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<td><strong>2012 - 13 Parliamentary session</strong></td>
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<td>76      RTE London Bureau Closure</td>
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<td>325     Commercialisation in the BBC</td>
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<td>352     Human Rights in The Gambia</td>
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<td>357     Interns</td>
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</table>
Production Orders

The issue of Production Orders became prominent over the period of this report. The attempts by Essex Police to acquire the journalistic material of an NUJ member meant that this issue was finally resolved in the courts. Members of the Parliamentary Group, whilst being constrained by the sub judice rules, raised this issue on the floor of the House of Commons. Kelvin Hopkins MP and Jonathan Edwards MP both spoke on this issue at Home Office Oral Questions on 19th March 2012. Both Kelvin and Jonathan raised the issue of journalistic safety and the dangers that faced NUJ members if they were perceived to be open to the challenge of evidence gathering for the police.

The Parliamentary Group hosted a meeting on the protection of journalists' sources and production orders on 19th April 2012. The meeting was chaired by the Parliamentary Group Chair Austin Mitchell with other speakers including the General Secretary, lawyers specialising in this field and an NUJ member who was the subject of a production order.

Group members also tabled a number of Written Parliamentary Questions regarding production orders. The questions tabled, and the answers received, demonstrate that the Government was unable or unwilling to demonstrate the extent to which production orders have been applied for by police forces. Written Questions were tabled by Alex Cunningham MP, Kelvin Hopkins MP, Jonathan Edwards MP, and John McDonnell MP.

Local Newspapers

The crisis affecting the local newspaper industry has continued over the course of this year. Group members have used the Parliamentary stage as a platform in which to draw attention to the job losses and attacks on pay and conditions which is affecting the industry across the entire country.

The Government launched a consultation on scrapping the requirement for local newspapers to advertise traffic notices. This has an impact on staffing levels at newspapers as the funding income from local authorities is reduced. In reply to a Written Question by Luciana Berger MP, the Minister for Transport responded that the consultation was launched on 30th January.

Conservative Louise Mensch MP led an adjournment debate entitled local newspapers on 25th April 2012. The debate was only timetabled for 30 minutes which denied many MPs the opportunity to contribute to the debate. However, some MPs did use the debate and their interventions as an opportunity to raise points of interest to the NUJ. Linda Riordan MP raised the example of her local newspaper in Halifax to demonstrate the impact that closures would have on the local economy. Lisa Nandy MP also brought forward the example of her local newspaper and raised the issue of Johnston Press and their ongoing cuts to local newspapers across the UK. In closing the debate the Government Minister responding, Ed
Vaizey MP, indicated that he had contacted the Managing Director of Johnston Press to request a meeting to discuss the local newspaper industry.

Ed Vaizey MP convened a meeting for MPs with the Chief Executives of Johnston Press, Newsquest and Trinity Mirror on 23rd May. Ashley Highfield was the sole Chief Executive to attend the Minister's request meeting. A number of MPs attended the meeting including Group members Kelvin Hopkins MP, John McDonnell MP and Bob Russell MP. The overall theme of the meeting was concern over staff and quality of the newspapers in the face of cuts by Johnston Press.

Jonathan Edwards MP raised local newspapers at DCMS Oral Questions on 14th June 2012. Jonathan used the Departmental Questions as an opportunity to discuss classifying local newspapers as ‘community assets’ under the Localism Act.

A number of Written Parliamentary Questions were tabled by John McDonnell MP asking what assessment the Government had made of the contribution that local newspapers make to the economy.

Austin Mitchell MP tabled EDM 2462 Local and Regional Newspapers in November 2011. The motion, which was signed by 33 MPs, drew attention to the valuable work that local newspapers play in the community and called for them to be treated as ‘community assets’ under the terms of the Localism Act. EDM 2978 Local and Regional Newspapers (No. 2) was tabled by Linda Riordan MP in April 2012. Linda Riordan’s motion, which was signed by 23 MPs, highlighted the decision by Johnston Press to move many of their titles from a daily publication to a weekly cycle. In the current 2012-13 Parliamentary session Austin Mitchell MP has tabled EDM 326 Local Newspapers as Community Assets which again highlights the valuable work that local newspapers perform. This EDM, which will remain open for MPs to support until the end of the session in 2013, has to date been signed by 33 MPs.

The Group has written to Ashley Highfield, Chief Executive of Johnston Press requesting a meeting to discuss the company’s strategy.

**BBC**

Officers of the Parliamentary Group were successful in securing a backbench business debate in the main chamber of the Commons, on the subject of future funding of the BBC. Competition for such slots is often fierce, and to secure a debate MPs addressing the Backbench Business Committee must demonstrate that there is significant support for the debate. The Group’s initiative resulted in extra Parliamentary time being made available to discuss BBC funding in the main chamber of the Commons, with a debate held on 1st December 2011. In advance of this, the Group circulated a briefing outlining the NUJ
positions to all MPs. The debate, led by Austin Mitchell MP, saw a number of MPs raise concerns about BBC cuts. The full text of the debate is available online¹.

**BBC Lobby of Parliament**

Following this debate the Group then hosted a lobby and public meeting in Parliament on 6th December 2012. BBC reps attended a lobby meeting in the afternoon and then lobbied individual MPs over their concerns, culminating in a public meeting in the Commons chaired by Austin Mitchell MP, with speakers including Michelle Stanistreet (General Secretary, NUJ), Gerry Morrissey (General Secretary of BECTU) and John McDonnell MP. A further public meeting was held in Parliament on 10th July 2012 to launch the NUJ alternative to the BBC cuts. This well attended meeting was chaired by Austin Mitchell MP with other MPs attending including Kelvin Hopkins and John McDonnell MP.

**BBC Local Radio**

On 26th October 2011, a debate held in Westminster Hall saw nearly 50 MPs attended to discuss proposed cuts to BBC local radio, an extraordinary number for an adjournment debate which demonstrates the degree of concern amongst Parliamentarians about these plans. A number of MPs from the NUJ Parliamentary group participated in this debate and forcefully raised concerns about the jobs losses and cuts to services to the Culture Minister Ed Vaizey MP². A number of EDMs were also tabled, over the course of the 2010-12 Parliamentary session, in defence of specific BBC local radio outlets. These EDMs were open for signature until the end of the session in May 2012. MPs tabling EDMs on BBC local radio include Tim Farron MP (Radio Cumbria); Luciana Berger MP (Radio Merseyside); Tom Blenkinsop MP (Radio Tees); Mike Hancock MP (Radio Solent); Caroline Lucas MP (Radio Sussex); Andrew George MP (Radio Cornwall); Keith Vaz MP (Radio Leicester); John Leech MP (Radio Manchester) and Paul Blomfield MP (Radio Leeds, Radio Sheffield and Radio York).

**Licence Fee Settlement**

Group members have asked a series of Parliamentary questions regarding the swiftly concluded BBC fee settlement shortly after the General Election, and in particular over the extent of contacts between Ministers/Civil Service and representatives from News Corporation. While the department’s answers denied any impropriety on the part of Ministers, the answers make evident the degree of contact in the form of text messages and phone calls. In the light of this, John McDonnell tabled EDM 3020 calling for the debate around the BBC licence fee settlement to be reopened. This EDM was tabled on the very

¹[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111201/debtext/111201-0001.htm#11120148000002](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111201/debtext/111201-0001.htm#11120148000002)

²[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111026/halltext/111026h0001.htm#11102653000001](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm111026/halltext/111026h0001.htm#11102653000001)
last day of the 2010-12 session and consequently was only on the order paper long enough to receive the support of the initial two MPs who signed it.

**BBC World Service**

69 MPs backed EDM 1356 put forward by the group on the BBC World Service, protesting at cuts to the World Service, commending the NUJ for its campaign to defend the service, and calling on the Government to review funding arrangements to BBC World Service to maintain this quality broadcasting service and jobs. The group has also sponsored EDM 2792 marking the 80th Anniversary of the BBC World Service – tabled on a cross party basis with support from Labour, Liberal Democrat, SDLP and Conservative MPs. This EDM received the support of 45 MPs.

**Interns**

The NUJ’s Cashback for Interns campaign has been supported by the Parliamentary Group. Lisa Nandy MP tabled EDM 357 Interns in July 2012. This EDM, which remains open for support, attracted the support of 20 MPs by the time of the Parliamentary recess in mid-July 2012. The EDM supports the NUJ’s Cashback for Interns campaign and calls for interns in the media industry to receive payment for their work. Parliamentary Questions were tabled in the run up to the Parliamentary recess in July 2012 asking Government departments how many interns were employed in the various press offices. MPs tabling Questions regarding interns included Katy Clark MP, Kelvin Hopkins MP and John McDonnell MP.

**Far-right intimidation of journalists**

The Group has written to the Home Secretary, Theresa May on this issue. Following the Group meeting on 26th June a letter was sent to the Home Secretary expressing concern ‘about the safety of our members who cover marches, rallies and other events organised by the English Defence League (EDL) and other far right groups.’

**International**

Jeremy Corbyn tabled EDM 2638 Safety of Journalists in Somalia drawing attention to the hazardous situation for journalists in that country. The Motion, tabled in January 2012, received the support of 47 MPs. In July 2012 Katy Clark MP tabled EDM 352 Human Rights in The Gambia. The EDM has gained the support of 22 MPs after being tabled only two weeks before the summer recess. Other EDMs were tabled on international issues by Group members. John McDonnell MP tabled EDM 2419 British Journalist Held by Israel in November 2011. The EDM expressed its concern that British journalist, Hassan Ghani, who had been travelling on an aid ship to Gaza, had been detained by the Israeli authorities.
Jeremy Corbyn raised the issue of journalists under attack in Somalia on the floor of the House of Commons in February 2012 in a general debate on Somalia. A Westminster Hall adjournment debate was held by Don Foster MP on the safety of journalists abroad. The 90 minute debate was held on 21st March 2012. A number of the NUJ’s concerns regarding the working climate for journalist internationally were aired in the debate. A briefing was circulated in advance of the debate to Don Foster MP and to the Shadow Labour Spokesperson for the media, Helen Goodman MP.

Written Parliamentary Questions have been tabled by a number of Group members regarding the safety of journalists abroad and the freedom of the media. MPs tabling Parliamentary Questions on this topic include Katy Clark MP, Alex Cunningham MP and Jeremy Corbyn MP and John McDonnell MP. Questions were tabled on the safety of journalists in Russia, Belarus, Burundi, Thailand, Nepal, Turkey, Ethiopia and Mongolia and Somalia.

The Group has written to the Foreign Secretary and the Kenyan High Commission regarding the relocation of staff from Nairobi to Mogadishu. The National Union of Somali Journalists fears that such a move would endanger the staff and the Parliamentary Group concurs in this view.
Early Day Motions

EDM 2137 Campaign to Save the Irish Post Newspaper
Chris Ruane MP

That this House expresses its concern at the sudden decision of the Cork-based Thomas Crosbie Holdings to close the longest running, largest circulation community weekly newspaper for the Irish in the UK; notes the belief of former staff and management that viable alternatives to closure are available and their launch of a community campaign to `Save the Irish Post'; further notes that the Federation of Irish Societies, with more than 150 affiliated clubs and societies throughout England and Wales, has described the Post as a central pillar of the community; further notes that the Irish Post has, for more than forty years, been the `voice of the Irish in Britain', defended the community against discrimination, promoted peace and reconciliation, celebrated Irish identity, ethnicity, history and culture, showcased Irish talent and promoted trade and commerce; believes that a vibrant and diverse community press and media is vital to the promotion of good relations in society; and supports the Irish community in its battle to save this vital resource.

Barron, Kevin
Benton, Joe
Blenkinsop, Tom
Bottomley, Peter
Brennan, Kevin
Campbell, Ronnie
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Clwyd, Ann
Cooper, Rosie
Corbyn, Jeremy
Cruddas, Jon
Cryer, John
Cunningham, Jim
Dakin, Nic
Danczuk, Simon
Dobbin, Jim
Dobson, Frank
Dromey, Jack
Durkan, Mark
Edwards, Jonathan
Efford, Clive
Esterson, Bill
Evans, Chris
Flynn, Paul
Fovargue, Yvonne
Francis, Hywel
Gilmore, Sheila
Goggins, Paul
Green, Kate
Hancock, Mike
Havard, Dai
Hemming, John
Hopkins, Kelvin
Hunt, Tristram
James, Sian C
Jamieson, Cathy
Jones, Kevan
Lavery, Ian L
Leech, John
Lloyd, Tony
Llwyd, Elfyn
Long, Naomi
Love, Andrew
Lucas, Ian
McCabe, Steve
McDonagh, Siobhain
McDonnell, Alasdair
McDonnell, John
McGovern, Alison

McGovern, Jim
Meale, Alan
Mearns, Ian
Mercer, Patrick
Michael, Alun
Miller, Andrew
Mulholland, Greg
Murphy, Paul
Owen, Albert
Perkins, Toby
Pound, Stephen
Riordan, Linda
Ritchie, Margaret
Robertson, John
Rotheram, Steve
Roy, Frank
Roy, Lindsay
Ruane, Chris
Sheridan, Jim
Smith, Nick
Tami, Mark
Vaz, Valerie
Walter, Robert
Watts, Dave
Winnick, David
That this House expresses concern about the planned 16 million cut to BBC Scotland's annual budget; understands that around 140 jobs at BBC Scotland are at threat due to this funding cut; believes that BBC Scotland produces high quality programmes such as River City, which not only generate funds for the BBC through overseas sales but are an example of the excellent output of the Corporation; supports the National Union of Journalists in its campaign against BBC cuts; and calls on the Government to reopen the licence fee settlement in light of recent political developments.

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<td>Davidson, Ian</td>
<td>McKenzie, Iain</td>
<td>Wishart, Pete</td>
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That this House expresses its extreme concern at the illegal detention by Israel since 4 November 2011 of Hassan Ghani, a British journalist, who was on board the Tahrir which, along with the Soairse, was delivering aid to Gaza; and calls on the UK Government to seek the immediate release of Hassan Ghani by Israel.

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<th>Bayley, Hugh</th>
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EDM 2462 Local and Regional Newspapers
Austin Mitchell MP 33 signatures

That this House believes that local and regional newspapers play a vital role in the community; notes that in many places across the country when local amenities have been threatened with sale or closure community groups have taken over their running; further believes that community groups face more significant challenges in terms of timescale and the raising of money than the private enterprises bidding against them; further notes that the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to maintain a list of assets of community value which have been nominated by the local community; further notes that when listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership the Localism Act 2011 gives community groups the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset when it comes on the open market; and supports the National Union of Journalists’ campaign for local and regional newspapers to be listed with local councils as assets of community under the Act.

Anderson, David Hancock, Mike Mitchell, Austin
Bottomley, Peter Hemming, John Morris, Graham M
Campbell, Gregory Hermon, Lady Rotheram, Steve
Campbell, Ronnie Hopkins, Kelvin Russell, Bob
Caton, Martin Leech, John Shannon, Jim
Corbyn, Jeremy Lloyd, Tony Sheridan, Jim
Crockart, Mike Lucas, Caroline Simpson, David
Davidson, Ian McDonnell, John Sutcliffe, Gerry
Dodds, Nigel McGovern, Jim Vaz, Valerie
Durkan, Mark McKenzie, Iain Walley, Joan
Edwards, Jonathan Meale, Alan Wood, Mike

EDM 2638 Safety of Journalists in Somalis
Jeremy Corbyn MP 47 signatures

That this House is concerned about the ongoing threats to, and arrests and killing of journalists in Somalia; condemns the mass arrest of journalists without charge in Somaliland; believes that these arrests are an attempt to intimidate journalists into not covering news stories critical of the governing authorities; is appalled at the killing of journalist Abdisalan Sheik Hassan, who was shot dead on 18 December 2011; equally condemns the killing of journalists Farah Hasan Sahel, Noramfaizul Mohd Nor and Abdiazz Ahmed Aden, who were killed in 2011; supports the efforts of the National Union of Somali Journalists and its members who perform a crucial role in reporting in Somalia against a background of violence and intimidation for carrying out their jobs; and urges the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to raise the issues of organised and continuing threats against

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EDM 2713 Bonuses and Job Cuts at Trinity Mirror
John McDonnell MP
19 signatures

That this House condemns the proposed 75 job losses at Trinity Mirror’s national newspaper titles, the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and The People; notes that these cuts come at a time when the pay and pensions awards for Trinity Mirror directors last year was 3.9 million; further notes that the Chief Executive of Trinity Mirror, Sly Bailey, received a pay and pensions package of 1.7 million; understands that the share price for Trinity Mirror in February 2012 was 48p compared to 90p 12 months ago; condemns the situation where journalists face losing their jobs whilst senior directors at Trinity Mirror receive large bonuses; further notes that at the 2011 Trinity Mirror AGM, in a break from practice, attending shareholders were not able to vote by a show of hands on the floor of the meeting and that their votes were aggregated with large institutional investors; and calls on the Government to look at measures to ensure that shareholders at companies like Trinity Mirror are able to demonstrate their vote in a show of hands over directors’ remuneration.

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EDM 2792 80th Anniversary of the BBC World Service
John McDonnell MP

That this House notes that 29 February 2012 is the 80th anniversary of the BBC World Service; believes that the BBC World Service provides a service which is second to none internationally; supports the valuable work done by journalists at the BBC World Service who are working in difficult and sometimes hostile environments; further believes that the BBC World Service provides a lifeline for people in many countries; further notes that the BBC World Service reports in the Middle East and North Africa have provided a source of unbiased news to many; and further believes that funding should be provided to the BBC World Service in order to enable it to carry out its role as a world class broadcasting network.

Bayley, Hugh
Blomfield, Paul
Bottomley, Peter
Burden, Richard
Campbell, Menzies
Campbell, Ronnie
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Corbyn, Jeremy
Crausby, David
Cryer, John
Dobbin, Jim
Dodds, Nigel
Durkan, Mark
Flynn, Paul
George, Andrew
Glindon, Mary
Halfon, Robert
Hancock, Mike
Hepburn, Stephen
Hermon, Lady
Hopkins, Kelvin
Huppert, Julian
Jackson, Glenda
Lavery, Ian
Leech, John
Lloyd, Tony
McDonnell, Alasdair
McDonnell, John
Meale, Alan
Mears, Ian
Morris, Graham M
Mulholland, Greg
Riordan, Linda
Ritchie, Margaret
Rogerson, Dan
Rotheram, Steve
Roy, Lindsay
Russell, Bob
Shannon, Jim
Skinner, Dennis
Sutcliffe, Gerry
Vaz, Valerie
Vickers, Martin
Wood, Mike

EDM 2833 Department of Transport Consultation Advertising
Alan Meale MP

That this House is aware that currently the Department of Transport is conducting a consultation asking whether local authorities, the Highways Agency, utility companies and other relevant service industries should be allowed to advertise traffic regulation orders in areas other than in local newspapers; notes that according to market-based evidence, no other medium has the same reach as local press, with it constantly out-performing all other media outlets who are in the business of providing information to the general public; believes that if such a change is agreed it will lead to these and other bodies simply using cheaper options such as their own website, or other cheaper methods which will undermine the stability of the local press and inevitably cause the supply, style and visibility of public information to be seriously detrimentally affected.

Bayley, Hugh
Blackman-Woods, Roberta
Bottomley, Peter
Brady, Graham
Bruce, Fiona
Campbell, Ronnie
Cash, William
Caton, Martin
Corbyn, Jeremy
Meale, Alan
Mears, Ian
Morris, Graham M
Mulholland, Greg
Riordan, Linda
Ritchie, Margaret
Rogerson, Dan
Rotheram, Steve
Roy, Lindsay
Russell, Bob
Shannon, Jim
Skinner, Dennis
Sutcliffe, Gerry
Vaz, Valerie
Vickers, Martin
Wood, Mike
That this House notes with sadness the decision by Johnston Press to move many long-established local newspapers from a daily publication to a weekly publication; condemns this unnecessary move and the implications it will have for the jobs of many journalists, printers, newspaper sellers and newspaper deliveries; praises the role local daily newspapers like the Halifax Courier and other titles in towns like Kettering, Northampton, Peterborough and Scarborough play in local democracy and in reporting the news on a daily basis; further notes the knock-on effect this will have on the local economies of the towns affected; urges Johnston Press to protect existing jobs at the newspaper titles affected and ensure that there are no compulsory job losses; further urges them to consult fully with the National Union of Journalists about their proposals; and hopes that local newspapers will continue to play an important role in the life of local communities for many years to come.

That this House notes with concern the proposal of the Irish public service broadcaster, RT (Radio Telefísireann), to close its London bureau and cease operations from September 2012; pays tribute to the illustrious record of service provided by the bureau and its staff in keeping Irish viewers informed about British economic, political and cultural life, contributing to the peaceful resolution of conflict and promoting increasingly close relations between Britain and Ireland and the people of our respective islands; while recognising the drastic fall...
of broadcasting revenue at a time of economic crisis; further notes the concerns of the Irish community in Britain for the long-term consequences of RT bureau closure; believes that on-the-spot access for Irish-based media and engagement in public life in this jurisdiction is vital to fulfil the vision of future British-Irish relations as set out by the Prime Minister and Irish Taoiseach in their historic statement of 12 March 2012; and urges the Government to support the case for retention of the Bureau and assist in the search for alternatives to closure.

Bottomley, Peter
Caton, Martin
Corbyn, Jeremy
Dobson, Frank
Dowd, Jim
Durkan, Mark
Flynn, Paul
Gapes, Mike
George, Andrew
Glindon, Mary
Havard, Dai
Hopkins, Kelvin
Hughes, Simon
Lavery, Ian
Leech, John
Lloyd, Tony
Long, Naomi
McDonnell, Alasdair
McDonnell, John
Murphy, Paul
Reckless, Mark
Ritchie, Margaret
Shannon, Jim
Sharma, Virendra
Vaz, Valerie

EDM 3020 BBC Licence Fee
John McDonnell MP

That this House notes that for over 12 months hon. Members have expressed concerns about the possible influence of the Murdochs over the Government's BBC licence fee settlement in November 2010 given the speech by James Murdoch in 2009 urging cuts to the licence fee and to the BBC; further notes that from their evidence to the Leveson Inquiry it is now known that James Murdoch met the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport both before and after the 2010 General Election to discuss the BBC; and calls on the Prime Minister to ensure that all correspondence, emails and texts between the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, his Department's officials and special advisers and the Murdochs and their representatives and any minutes and notes of meetings on the BBC and its licence fee are published.

Corbyn, Jeremy
McDonnell, John

EDM 76 RTE London Bureau Closure
Paul Murphy MP

That this House notes with concern the proposal of the Irish public service broadcaster, RT (Radio Telefis ireann), to close its London bureau and cease operations from September 2012; pays tribute to the illustrious record of service provided by the bureau and its staff in

2012-13 Session
keeping Irish viewers informed about British economic, political and cultural life, contributing to the peaceful resolution of conflict and promoting increasingly close relations between the people of our respective islands, while recognising the dramatic fall of broadcasting revenue at a time of economic hardship; further notes the concerns of the Irish community in Britain for the loss of this link; believes that on-the-spot access and public engagement of Irish-based media is important to the vision of future British-Irish relations as set out by the Prime Minister and Taoiseach in their joint statement of 12 March 2012; further notes that a motion supporting the maintenance of the RT service was adopted with cross-party and cross-jurisdictional backing at the 44th Plenary of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly held in Dublin on 14 and 15 May 2012; and urges the Government to support the case for retention and assist in the search for alternatives to closure.

Andersson, David Bayley, Hugh Bottomley, Peter Caton, Martin Corbyn, Jeremy Dobbin, Jim Dobson, Frank Dowd, Jim Durkan, Mark Edwards, Jonathan Farrelly, Paul Flynn, Paul Foster, Don Gapes, Mike George, Andrew Glindon, Mary Hancock, Mike Havard, Dai Hermon, Lady Hopkins, Kelvin Hughes, Simon Lavery, Ian Leech, John Leigh, Ian Lloyd, Tony Llwyd, Elfyn Long, Naomi McDonnell, John McGovern, Jim Morris, David Murphy, Paul Owen, Albert Reckless, Mark Ritchie, Margaret Robertson, Laurence Russell, Bob Shannon, Jim Sharma, Virendra Sheridan, Jim Skinner, Dennis Vaz, Valerie Williams, Stephen Woodward, Shaun

EDM 325 Commercialisation in the BBC

Austin Mitchell MP 20 signatures

That this House notes with dismay the email sent to all BBC staff working in the Global News department from Peter Horrocks, the Director of BBC Global News, which asks staff to generate money making ideas for the BBC; further notes that the email states that staff will be required to exploit new commercial opportunities as part of their appraisal process; condemns such an idea as threatening the ethos at the heart of the BBC’s public service broadcasting; believes that ordering staff to focus on commercial ideas will distort the Corporation’s fundamental news-gathering and reporting objectives; further believes that journalists working for the Global News Service, which includes the BBC World Service, work in some of the most challenging terrain in the world and can only carry out their work as impartial reporters rather than money gatherers; and calls on the BBC to abandon this ill conceived initiative.
EDM 326 Local Newspapers as Community Assets
Austin Mitchell MP 33 signatures

That this House supports local newspapers as a valued part of the community across all parts of the UK; believes they should be designated as community assets under the Localism Act 2012; supports such an extension under the Act as it will allow threatened newspapers to explore alternative ownership models; further believes that local newspapers are able to report on and hold to account local politicians in ways that the national media is not able to do and that local newspapers are essential to local business through advertising; and calls on the Government to convene discussions with local newspaper groups and the National Union of Journalists in order to safeguard this invaluable source of local news across the country.

EDM 327 Media Standards
John McDonnell MP 25 signatures

That this House commends the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) for its work in improving media standards and championing quality journalism; notes that the NUJ is a core participant at the Leveson Inquiry; believes that this is fitting as the NUJ represents thousands of journalists throughout the press including national and local newspapers; supports the NUJ’s campaign for a Conscience Clause for journalists, which will protect them in their workplaces if they are asked to carry out work that would compromise their
journalistic ethics; believes that the Press Complaints Commission failed as a regulatory body and should be replaced by a truly independent body which has press freedom and high journalistic standards at its core and which includes representatives of ordinary journalists and the wider public in a co-regulatory approach; further believes that in order to be effective such a body needs to be underpinned by statute with a press ombudsman to mediate with the public; and supports such a body having the power to hear appeals from the ombudsman and administer an ethical code, such as the NUJ code of conduct, as well as the powers of investigation and the ability to decide on punishments including fines and compensation for newspapers which breach the code.

Anderson, David
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Corbyn, Jeremy
Crausby, David
Cryer, John
Davidson, Ian
Dobbin, Jim
Durkan, Mark
Edwards, Jonathan
Flynn, Paul
Galloway, George
Hopkins, Kelvin
Leech, John
McDonnell, John
McGovern, Jim
Meale, Alan
Mitchell, Austin
Morris, Grahame
Riordan, Linda
Ritchie, Margaret
Sheridan, Jim
Skinner, Dennis
Williams, Hywel
Wood, Mike

EDM 352 Human Rights in the Gambia
Katy Clark MP

That this House is deeply concerned by the continued detention of Gambian journalist Ebrima Manneh who was detained in 2006 and was said to be alive in 2011 by the Gambian Attorney General and Minister for Justice Edward Gomez; notes that since then no further information has been released about the wellbeing of Ebrima Manneh; recognises there have been recent occurrences in 2012, as reported in a Public Statement by Amnesty International, where journalists and activists have been unlawfully arrested, harassed and detained; further notes the remarks of the Attorney General and Justice Minister in the Gambian Daily News newspaper that those within the Gambian diaspora talking grimly about Gambia's human rights would experience a backlash if they returned to the Gambia; is very concerned for the safety of those Gambians who are seen as opponents of the Gambian government; and calls on the Government to urgently raise the case of Ebrima Manneh with the Gambian government as well as looking for opportunities to safeguard the human rights of Gambian nationals and diaspora.

Anderson, David
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Corbyn, Jeremy
Crausby, David
Dobbin, Jim
Durkan, Mark
Flynn, Paul
George, Andrew
Hermon, Lady
Hopkins, Kelvin
Leech, John
Lloyd, Tony
McCrea, Dr William
McDonnell, John
Meale, Alan
Pearce, Teresa
Riordan, Linda
That this House congratulates the magazines, Elle and Cosmo for agreeing to pay their interns; believes that unpaid internships in the media remain the norm and that this should be challenged; notes that the report to the Cabinet Office entitled Fair Access to Professional Careers by Alan Milburn identifies journalism as `one of the most socially exclusive of professions'; further notes that unpaid internships play a role in excluding many people looking for work in the media industry; further believes that interns in the media profession should be paid for their work; and supports Cashbac for Interns, the National Union of Journalists' campaign to protect interns in the media industry.
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<th>First Name</th>
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<td>Tom</td>
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<td>Katy</td>
<td>Clark MP</td>
<td>Ayrshire North &amp; Arran</td>
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<td>Williams MP</td>
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<td>Jenny</td>
<td>Willott MP</td>
<td>Cardiff Central</td>
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<td>Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde</td>
<td>Labour</td>
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<td>Lord Grocott</td>
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