

NUJ

NATIONAL UNION

OF

JOURNALISTS

**PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP**

ANNUAL REPORT

**September 2011 –
July 2012**

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

Secretary: John McDonnell

Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

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.

List of EDMs tabled over the course of this report

2010 – 12 Parliamentary session			
2137	Campaign to Save the Irish Post Newspaper	Chris Ruane MP	77
2255	BBC Scotland	Katy Clark MP	24
2410	British Journalist Held by Israel	John McDonnell MP	40
2462	Local and Regional Newspapers	Austin Mitchell MP	33
2638	Safety of Journalists in Somalia	Jeremy Corbyn MP	47
2713	Bonuses and Job Cuts at Trinity Mirror	John McDonnell MP	19
2792	80 th Anniversary of the BBC World Service	John McDonnell MP	45
2833	Department of Transport Consultation Advertising	Alan Meale MP	36
2978	Local and Regional Newspapers (No. 2)	Linda Riordan MP	23
3020	BBC Licence Fee	John McDonnell MP	2
2012 - 13 Parliamentary session			
76	RTE London Bureau Closure	Chris Ruane MP	44
325	Commercialisation in the BBC	Austin Mitchell MP	20
326	Local Newspapers as Community Assets	Austin Mitchell MP	33
327	Media Standards	John McDonnell MP	25
352	Human Rights in The Gambia	Katy Clark MP	22
357	Interns	Lisa Nandy MP	20

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

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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

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

Secretary: John McDonnell

Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

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>

² <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.

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

Secretary: John McDonnell

Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

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

2010-12 Session

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

77 signatures

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 | Fovargue, Yvonne | McGovern, Jim |
| Benton, Joe | Francis, Hywel | Meale, Alan |
| Blenkinsop, Tom | Gilmore, Sheila | Mearns, Ian |
| Bottomley, Peter | Goggins, Paul | Mercer, Patrick |
| Brennan, Kevin | Green, Kate | Michael, Alun |
| Campbell, Ronnie | Hancock, Mike | Miller, Andrew |
| Caton, Martin | Havard, Dai | Mulholland, Greg |
| Clark, Katy | Hemming, John | Murphy, Paul |
| Clwyd, Ann | Hopkins, Kelvin | Owen, Albert |
| Cooper, Rosie | Hunt, Tristram | Perkins, Toby |
| Corbyn, Jeremy | James, Sian C | Pound, Stephen |
| Cruddas, Jon | Jamieson, Cathy | Riordan, Linda |
| Cryer, John | Jones, Kevan | Ritchie, Margaret |
| Cunningham, Jim | Lavery, Ian L | Robertson, John |
| Dakin, Nic | eech, John | Rotheram, Steve |
| Danczuk, Simon | Lloyd, Tony | Roy, Frank |
| Dobbin, Jim | Llwyd, Elfyn | Roy, Lindsay |
| Dobson, Frank | Long, Naomi | Ruane, Chris |
| Dromey, Jack | Love, Andrew | Sheridan, Jim |
| Durkan, Mark | Lucas, Ian | Smith, Nick |
| Edwards, Jonathan | McCabe, Steve | Tami, Mark |
| Efford, Clive | McDonagh, Siobhain | Vaz, Valerie |
| Esterson, Bill | McDonnell, Alasdair | Walter, Robert |
| Evans, Chris | McDonnell, John | Watts, Dave |
| Flynn, Paul | McGovern, Alison | Winnick, David |

Wood, Mike

Wright, Iain

EDM 2255 BBC Scotland
Katy Clark MP

24 signatures

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.

Begg, Anne
Campbell, Ronnie
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Connarty, Michael
Corbyn, Jeremy
Cryer, John
Davidson, Ian

Dobbin, Jim
Doran, Frank
Flynn, Paul
Hopkins, Kelvin
Lloyd, Tony
McDonnell, John
McGuire, Anne
McKenzie, Iain

Meale, Alan
Osborne, Sandra
Robertson, Angus
Roy, Frank
Roy, Lindsay
Sharma, Virendra
Sheridan, Jim
Wishart, Pete

EDM 2410 British Journalist Held by Israel
John McDonnell MP

40 signatures

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.

Bayley, Hugh
Bottomley, Peter
Burt, Lorely
Campbell, Menzies
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Corbyn, Jeremy
Cunningham, Jim
Davidson, Ian
Dobbin, Jim
Dowd, Jim
Durkan, Mark
Edwards, Jonathan

Flynn, Paul
George, Andrew
Glendon, Mary
Godsiff, Roger
Hancock, Mike
Hemming, John
Hopkins, Kelvin
Huppert, Julian
Lavery, Ian
Lloyd, Stephen
Lloyd, Tony
Llwyd, Elfyn
Lucas, Caroline

McDonnell, John
Meale, Alan
Morris, Grahame M
Mulholland, Greg
Ritchie, Margaret
Ruddock, Joan
Russell, Bob
Sanders, Adrian
Sarwar, Anas
Sheerman, Barry
Williams, Hywel
Williams, Mark
Williams, Roger

Wood, Mike

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
 Bottomley, Peter
 Campbell, Gregory
 Campbell, Ronnie
 Caton, Martin
 Corbyn, Jeremy
 Crockart, Mike
 Davidson, Ian
 Dodds, Nigel
 Durkan, Mark
 Edwards, Jonathan

Hancock, Mike
 Hemming, John
 Hermon, Lady
 Hopkins, Kelvin
 Leech, John
 Lloyd, Tony
 Lucas, Caroline
 McDonnell, John
 McGovern, Jim
 McKenzie, Iain
 Meale, Alan

Mitchell, Austin
 Morris, Grahame M
 Rotheram, Steve
 Russell, Bob
 Shannon, Jim
 Sheridan, Jim
 Simpson, David
 Sutcliffe, Gerry
 Vaz, Valerie
 Walley, Joan
 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 Abdiaziz 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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journalists in Somalia as a matter of urgency with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

Anderson, David
 Bottomley, Peter
 Campbell, Ronnie
 Caton, Martin
 Clark, Katy
 Connarty, Michael
 Corbyn, Jeremy
 Crausby, David
 Cunningham, Alex
 Cunningham, Tony
 Davidson, Ian
 Dobbin, Jim
 Doran, Frank
 Durkan, Mark
 Edwards, Jonathan
 Esterson, Bill

Flynn, Paul
 Foster, Don
 Gapes, Mike
 George, Andrew
 Hancock, Mike
 Hemming, John
 Hermon, Lady
 Hopkins, Kelvin
 Lavery, Ian
 Leech, John
 Lloyd, Tony
 Llwyd, Elfyn
 Long, Naomi
 Lucas, Caroline
 McCrea, Dr William
 McDonnell, John

Meale, Alan
 Morrice, Graeme
 Osborne, Sandra
 Riordan, Linda
 Ritchie, Margaret
 Roy, Lindsay
 Ruddock, Joan
 Russell, Bob
 Shannon, Jim
 Sheerman, Barry
 Simpson, David
 Skinner, Dennis
 Williams, Hywel
 Williams, Mark
 Wood, Mike

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.

Campbell, Ronnie
 Caton, Martin
 Corbyn, Jeremy
 Cryer, John
 Davidson, Ian
 Dobbin, Jim
 Durkan, Mark

Edwards, Jonathan
 Flynn, Paul
 Glindon, Mary
 Godsiff, Roger
 McDonnell, John
 McGovern, Jim
 Meale, Alan

Mitchell, Austin
 Roy, Lindsay
 Sharma, Virendra
 Sheridan, Jim
 Stringer, Graham

EDM 2792 80th Anniversary of the BBC World Service**John McDonnell MP****45 signatures**

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.

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

EDM 2833 Department of Transport Consultation Advertising**Alan Meale MP****36 signatures**

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	Bruce, Fiona	Cunningham, Alex
Blackman-Woods, Roberta	Campbell, Ronnie	Cunningham, Tony
Bottomley, Peter	Cash, William	Davidson, Ian
Brady, Graham	Caton, Martin	Davies, Geraint
	Corbyn, Jeremy	Davis, David

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

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Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

Dobbin, Jim
 Hancock, Mike
 Henderson, Gordon
 Hoey, Kate
 Hopkins, Kelvin
 Leech, John
 Lloyd, Stephen
 Main, Anne

McDonnell, John
 Meale, Alan
 Mearns, Ian
 Morris, Grahame M
 Owen, Albert
 Percy, Andrew
 Russell, Bob
 Skinner, Dennis

Stringer, Graham
 Sutcliffe, Gerry
 Vaz, Valerie
 Watts, Dave
 Williams, Hywel
 Wood, Mike

EDM 2978 Local and Regional Newspapers (No. 2)

Linda Riordan MP

23 signatures

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.

Campbell, Ronnie
 Caton, Martin
 Clark, Katy
 Corbyn, Jeremy
 Crausby, David
 Davidson, Ian
 Dobbin, Jim
 Edwards, Jonathan

Flynn, Paul
 Glindon, Mary
 Hancock, Mike
 Heyes, David
 Hopkins, Kelvin
 Lavery, Ian
 Lucas, Caroline
 McDonnell, John

Riordan, Linda
 Russell, Bob
 Sharma, Virendra
 Sheerman, Barry
 Skinner, Dennis
 Turner, Karl
 Williams, Mark

EDM 2993 Closure of RTE London Bureau

Paul Murphy MP

25 signatures

That this House notes with concern the proposal of the Irish public service broadcaster, RT (Radio Telefís Éireann), 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

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Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

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

Glendon, 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

2 signatures

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

2012-13 Session

EDM 76 RTE London Bureau Closure

Paul Murphy MP

44 signatures

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

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

Secretary: John McDonnell

Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

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.

Anderson, 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, Edward
 Lloyd, Tony
 Llwyd, Elfyn
 Long, Naomi
 McDonnell, Alasdair
 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.

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

Secretary: John McDonnell

Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

Anderson, David
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Corbyn, Jeremy
Cryer, John
Davidson, Ian
Edwards, Jonathan

Esterson, Bill
Galloway, George
Hepburn, Stephen
Hopkins, Kelvin
Lucas, Caroline
McDonnell, John
Meale, Alan

Mitchell, Austin
Morris, Grahame
Skinner, Dennis
Vaz, Valerie
Williams, Hywel
Wood, Mike

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.

Anderson, David
Bottomley, Peter
Brooke, Annette
Caton, Martin
Clark, Katy
Corbyn, Jeremy
Crausby, David
Crockart, Mike
Cryer, John
Davidson, Ian
Dobbin, Jim

Durkan, Mark
Edwards, Jonathan
Flynn, Paul
Francis, Hywel
Glindon, Mary
Goodman, Helen
Hopkins, Kelvin
Lloyd, Tony
Lucas, Caroline
McCrea, William
McDonnell, John

Meale, Alan
Mitchell, Austin
Morris, Grahame
Pugh, John
Ritchie, Margaret
Simpson, David
Stringer, Graham
Tredinnick, David
Vaz, Valerie
Williams, Hywel
Wood, Mike

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

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

Secretary: John McDonnell

Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

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

22 signatures

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

Chair: Austin Mitchell,

Secretary: John McDonnell

Vice Chairs: Don Foster, Mike Hancock, Angus Robertson, Robert Walter

Ritchie, Margaret
Robertson, John

Shannon, Jim
Sharma, Virendra

EDM 357 Interns

Lisa Nandy MP

20 signatures

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 Cashback for Interns, the National Union of Journalists' campaign to protect interns in the media industry.

Bottomley, Peter
Burt, Lorely
Campbell, Ronnie
Caton, Martin
Corbyn, Jeremy
Crockart, Mike
Cryer, John

Flynn, Paul
Galloway, George
Glendon, Mary
Hopkins, Kelvin
McDonnell, John
Meale, Alan
Mitchell, Austin

Morris, Grahame
Nandy, Lisa
Sharma, Virendra
Skinner, Dennis
Williams, Stephen
Wood, Mike

NUJ PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEMBERS

First Name	Surname	Constituency	Party
Tom	Blenkinsop MP	Middlesbrough South & Cleveland East	Labour
Tom	Brake MP	Carshalton & Wallington	Liberal Democrat
Katy	Clark MP	Ayrshire North & Arran	Labour
Jeremy	Corbyn MP	Islington North	Labour
John	Cryer MP	Leyton & Wanstead	Labour
Alex	Cunningham MP	Stockton North	Labour
Ian	Davidson MP	Glasgow South West	Labour
Brian	Donohoe MP	Ayrshire Central	Labour
Clive	Efford MP	Eltham	Labour
Paul	Farrelly MP	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Labour
Caroline	Flint MP	Don Valley	Labour
Paul	Flynn MP	Newport West	Labour
Don	Foster MP	Bath	Liberal Democrat
David	Hamilton MP	Midlothian	Labour
Matthew	Hancock MP	Suffolk West	Conservative
Kelvin	Hopkins MP	Luton North	Labour
Elfyn	Llwyd MP	Dwyfor Meirionnydd	Plaid Cymru
Jason	McCartney MP	Colne Valley	Conservative
John	McDonnell MP	Hayes & Harlington	Labour
Austin	Mitchell MP	Great Grimsby	Labour
Ian	Murray MP	Edinburgh South	Labour
Angus	Robertson MP	Moray	SNP
Bob	Russell MP	Colchester	Liberal Democrat
Jim	Sheridan MP	Paisley & Renfrewshire North	Labour
Marsha	Singh MP	Bradford West	Labour
Anna	Soubry MP	Broxtowe	Conservative
Robert	Walter MP	Dorset North	Conservative
John	Whittingdale MP	Maldon	Conservative
Hywel	Williams MP	Arfon	Plaid Cymru
Jenny	Willott MP	Cardiff Central	Liberal Democrat
Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde			Labour
Lord Grocott			Labour