



CITIZENS' PSM FORUM

MEMBERS

October 2024

About the PSM Forum

The PSM Forum is a coalition of British civil society organisations which believe that high quality media, and Public Service Broadcasting specifically, make a valuable contribution to UK democracy, society, culture and the wellbeing of its citizens.

Voice of the Listener & Viewer set up the Forum as a response to the disbanding of the Consumer Forum for Communications in 2018. Its closure has led to less representation, especially for vulnerable sectors of society. Our concern is that without sufficient intervention there is a risk of failure to regulate for the benefit of citizens.

The coalition of organisations with their range of expertise and diverse networks also enable us to better understand the needs of ALL citizens, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalised in the debate.

Membership

Better Media

As a member-democratic and trade union-funded campaign, we at Better Media are big believers in the value of public service media for working people. We joined the PSM forum to help advocate for a media that leverages plurality, transparency and effective criticism in the public interest.

British Broadcasting Challenge

The British Broadcasting Challenge was formed three years ago to promote and strengthen the BBC and its public service values. The PSM Forum is an essential coalition in the fight to defend these values.

Campaign for the Arts

The Campaign for the Arts champions, defends and expands access to the arts for everyone. Strong public service media is vital in that mission, and for a flourishing culture. It broadens

access to a diverse range of high-quality artistic content and helps to ensure that everybody can participate in a shared cultural conversation. The PSBs significantly increase the coverage and production of art (commissioning and making original programmes), engage, and grow audiences for art (utilising their reach locally, nationally and internationally) and develop the next generation of artistic talent (including through schemes like BBC Music Introducing, Writersroom and Young Musician). They play a pivotal role in our creative industries and in supporting artists to contribute meaningfully to our democracy and society.

Children's Media Foundation

While children and young people are recognised in the Media Act as a designated component of public service broadcasting, other important genres are not. The Children's Media Foundation considers it vital that a broad range of content - including arts, religion science and regional content - is maintained as an obligation for public service media providers. There is, after all, little purpose in ensuring the young audience is served a range of culturally relevant and pro-social content if that variety and depth are no longer available to them later in life.

Decentered Media

Decentered Media supports the PSM Forum because we believe in a pluralist, open and transparent media in the UK. We are committed to the principles of universal access to broadcast media and to working with our partners in the forum to secure democratically accountable media that serves the needs of citizens across the country.

We are concerned that the Media Act will have a negative impact on independent and community radio broadcasters. There is a growing apprehension among these broadcasters that the Act's protectionist measures may significantly hinder their ability to enter and compete in the broadcast radio market. These provisions, intended to deregulate the sector, may inadvertently create barriers that favour established players over new entrants, thus limiting diversity and innovation within the broadcasting landscape.

IBT

The International Broadcasting Trust is charity working to protect and expand spaces for international stories within the media. IBT greatly benefits from its participation in the PSM Forum, which brings together organisations with diverse interests and objectives to collaborate around protecting and strengthening public service media. We value the opportunity the forum provides to pool expertise, share resources, debate ideas, and act together to improve PSM for current and future generations.

Media Reform Coalition

The Media Act narrows the principles of public service broadcasting and weaken Ofcom's ability to protect audience interests. The Media Reform Coalition supports the PSM Forum's recommendations for enshrining the value of key public service genres, creating new objectives for media literacy and workforce diversity, enhancing Channel 4's support for SME independent producers, and ensuring that any new regulations benefit audiences just as much as they benefit the broadcasters.

The Public Interest News Foundation

The Public Interest News Foundation is the UK's first charity to support public interest news – ethical and impartial journalism that informs and empowers the public about the things that matter to all of us. We believe that everyone in the UK should benefit from public interest news that speaks to them, for them and with them. Our interest here is where PSM intersects with the smaller, independent - and often local - news providers who are typically our focus.

Sandford St Martin Trust

The Sandford St Martin Trust has long argued that broadcasting, because of its reach, is a valuable tool for promoting greater civic and cultural competency. This is true for religious literacy - our main area of interest - but also applies to the foci of our partners within the PSM Forum. Collaborating with them has provided us with the opportunity to share strategies and expertise, to find common ground and to cooperate in a shared endeavour that has public service and, ultimately, public benefit at its heart.

UK Coalition for Cultural Diversity

UK Coalition for Cultural Diversity exists to uphold audiovisual cultural diversity. Given the complexity of fast on-line developments and AI, a broad forum of specialist organisations is the best way to push for and scrutinise legislation affecting public service media. This is critical to ensure all citizens have access to the broadest possible range of programming.

Voice of the Listener & Viewer

The Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) works to represent the interests of citizens in all broadcasting issues. We are an independent, not for profit membership-based charity, free from political and sectarian affiliations. We support high quality broadcasting which maintains the democratic and cultural traditions of the UK. We support the independence and integrity of the BBC and encourage work which demonstrates commitment to the principles of Public Service Broadcasting (PSB).

For further information please contact:

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