

## DIARY CASE



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## PREAMBLE

<b>Meeting date/time</b>	Friday 10 November 2023, 19:00 – 23:00
<b>Who is the Minister meeting?</b>	The Deputy Minister will be attending the Wales Media Awards 2023.
<b>Who requested the meeting?</b>	REDACTED, Committee Member of the Journalists Charity.
<b>Primary purpose</b>	To provide an opening speech, present the Community Journalism of the Year award and to host the Welsh Government sponsored table of 10 at the 2023 Wales Media Awards.
<b>Is there an agreed agenda?</b>	There is no agenda. An itinerary can be found at Annex A
<b>Which officials are supporting the Minister?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gerwyn Evans, Deputy Director, Creative Wales</li><li>• WG Official, Media Policy Manager, Creative Wales</li><li>• Andrew Mathias, Head of Communications</li></ul>
<b>Where is the meeting?</b>	The awards ceremony will take place at the Parkgate Hotel, Westgate Street, Cardiff. CF10 1DA
<b>Other practical considerations</b>	The Deputy Minister will be met in the foyer of the hotel's main entrance by REDACTED at 19:00. <b>Can REDACTED be notified of the Deputy Minister's arrival at the hotel 5 minutes prior to meeting.</b>

## DIARY CASE BRIEFING

### Purpose

Following an invitation from REDACTED, Committee Member of the Journalists Charity, you have agreed to provide an opening speech, present the Community Journalism of the Year award and to host the Welsh Government sponsored table of 10 at the 2023 Wales Media Awards.

### Current position and issues to note.

The Wales Media Awards aim to increase the quality of journalism in Wales, by challenging journalists working in the country to aspire to ever higher standards.

Run by the Journalists Charity, the awards acknowledge the value and quality of journalism in Wales (broadcast, print and on-line). It is also the only event that brings together all of the main media representatives in Wales and helps to promote the importance of Welsh media to a wider audience.

The Awards were launched 10 years ago, have grown in success year by year and are highly respected by the sector. The journalists Charity have committed to strive to make the awards more inclusive and continue to encourage local and community journalism entries from across all parts of Wales. The Awards celebrate the very best in Welsh journalism and acknowledge the talents and skills of Wales's best media professionals. This year saw more than 200 entries, a record number.

There are 21 categories which include Political Journalist of the Year, News Writer of the Year, Student Journalist of the Year, Sports Journalist of the Year, Video Camera Operator of the Year and Community Journalism of the Year. Welsh Government has provided £10,000 of sponsorship for the event, with Creative Wales listed as specific sponsors of the Community Journalism of the Year and Video News Journalist of the Year.

### Points to make.

- The media plays a crucial role in Wales and provides an invaluable source of critical news across all communities of Wales.
- We are aware of the challenges the sector is facing, and of the need for action to support a strong, vibrant and sustainable sector in Wales. The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the sector and is working closely with partners, including the Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group, to ensure an industry that is inclusive, representative, accessible and sustainable for all.
- We are currently considering the findings of the Shadow Broadcasting Authority Expert Panel's *A new future for broadcasting and communications in Wales recommendation* report, including how journalism could be embedded into any future operation. A decision is yet to be made on any formal body being established.

- The Welsh Government's role in supporting the media in Wales must be considered the context of the appropriateness of direct government intervention in media activity. However, The Welsh Government, through Co-operation Agreement budget and on an arm's length basis, has provided over £200,000 support for the journalism sector in Wales.

## **Background information**

### ***The Journalists Charity***

The Journalists Charity provides confidential advice, emergency support and financial assistance to journalists across the UK. The charity has also funded essential safety kit for freelance journalists covering Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They also work closely with a number of partner organisations including The Printing Charity, NUJ Extra and Step Change to signpost other specialist services.

The charity raises between £250,000 and - £500,000 annually, supporting a range of events throughout the year which offer networking and career development opportunities to new and established journalists.

### ***Media Commitments in the Plaid Cymru / Labour Co-operation Agreement***

The Co-operation Agreement committed to explore the creation of a shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales, to address concerns regarding a perceived current fragility in the media and attacks on its independence. The Agreement also committed to provide additional investment to develop existing and new enterprises seeking to improve Welsh journalism and address the information deficit.

Following comprehensive discussion and evidence gathering on the establishment of a Shadow Broadcasting authority for Wales, we are currently considering the findings of the Expert Panel's *A new future for broadcasting and communications in Wales* recommendation report, including how journalism could be embedded into any future operation.

### ***Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group***

The Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group was established in November 2021, following a recommendation by the National Union of Journalists in September 2021.

The group, which is made up of industry, academia and government representation has considered the long-term sustainability of public interest journalism in Wales and has set out its recommendations in their *Of and for Wales: towards a sustainable future for public interest journalism* report, published in August of this year.

Proposals in the report included the need for a diverse, resilient journalism workforce, greater focus on media literacy, greater focus on the Welsh language in Welsh journalism, and the creation of an media institute to raise funds and administer grants.

The proposals are currently being considered by Welsh Government.

## ***Welsh Government support for Journalism***

With budget from the Co-operation Agreement, the Welsh Government has provided £200,000 to support journalism in Wales. The Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group provided advice on the distribution of the budget on an arms-length basis, supporting the journalism accelerator fund, an initiative to provide journalistic content to hyperlocal publications, the funding of a full time dedicated Senedd reporter post, the Inclusive Media Development Lab', providing help and media advice to those from marginalised groups and the Cardiff University mapping of Wales's journalism sector data gathering project.

Officials continue to work with the working group and wider sector to explore future support and levers for the industry going forward.

## Annex 1 – Itinerary.

<b>19:00</b>	<b>Guests to arrive for pre-event reception, ground floor.</b>  Please provide your name to event staff on arrival.  REDACTED and Gerwyn Evans will greet you in the main reception foyer of the Parkgate Hotel.  REDACTED to run through the evening proceedings.
<b>19:10</b>	<b>Drinks Reception</b>  REDACTED will accompany you during the reception, introducing you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• REDACTED</li><li>• REDACTED</li><li>• REDACTED</li><li>• REDACTED</li></ul>
<b>20:00</b>	<b>Dinner.</b>  Dinner will begin with an opening speech by REDACTED, the Deputy Minister's speech will follow.  There will be two bottles of wine (1 red, 1 white) and water on the table as part of our sponsorship agreement.  The hotel has been instructed to supply up to an additional two bottles of house wine (1 red, 1 white), 10 bottles of lager and 10 bottles of assorted soft drinks.
<b>21:30</b>	<b>Awards Ceremony begins.</b>  You will be presenting the Community Journalism of the Year award, the 18 <sup>th</sup> of the night.  The trophy table will be at the left side of the stage and manned by a member of the organising team.

	<p>The host will introduce the category and invite you to come to the stage (lectern on left). Once at the lectern (which is close to the trophy table) you will be handed a silver envelope by my team member along with the trophy.</p> <p>The host will say “let’s hear who the category finalists are” and these will be announced by a voice-over. The host will read out a citation and then ask you to open the envelope and announce the winner.</p> <p>Please open the envelope and read out the winner’s name – they will come on stage where you will present the trophy and have a photograph taken.</p>
<b>23.00</b>	<b>Awards ceremony ends.</b>
<b>02:00</b>	<b>Hotel bar closes.</b>