



Cairncross Review: A Sustainable Future for Journalism QSD on 6 February 2020

On 6 February 2020, Baroness Kidron (Crossbench) is due to “ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking in response to *The Cairncross Review: A sustainable future for journalism*”.

Summary

- The Cairncross Review was established in March 2018 to consider the sustainability of high-quality journalism in the UK. The review was set up under the chairmanship of Dame Frances Cairncross.
- The review examined the overall state of the news media market; the threats to the financial sustainability of publishers; the impact of search engines and social media platforms; and the role of digital advertising. The review reported in February 2019. It contained several recommendations, including:
 - establishing an Institute for Public Interest News;
 - direct funding for local public-interest news;
 - setting up an innovation fund focusing on improving the supply of public interest news;
 - the development of a media literacy strategy; and
 - new forms of tax relief aimed at encouraging payment for online news content and the provision of local and investigative journalism.
- On 27 January 2020, the Government responded to the review saying it “fully accepts the analysis contained in the report, and is supportive of almost all of the recommendations”.
- The Government pointed to several actions that corresponded with the review’s recommendations, such as the development of an online media literacy strategy and the launch of a pilot innovation fund. It did not accept the recommendation to establish an Institute for Public Interest News, stating “it is not for the Government to lead on this issue”.
- The Government also announced plans to “go beyond the recommendations” of the review, by supporting the modernisation of court reporting; supporting transparency in the advertising supply chain; and continuing to ensure a free and independent press in the UK and internationally.

Heather Evennett | 30 January 2020

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Any comments on Library briefings should be sent to the Head of Research Services, House of Lords Library, London SW1A 0PW or emailed to purvism@parliament.uk.

Further Information

- Cairncross Review, [A Sustainable Future for Journalism](#), 12 February 2019, pp 1–12

Executive summary from report by Dame Frances Cairncross, following her review into the future of journalism. The review was commissioned by the Government and examined the sustainability of the production and distribution of high-quality journalism, especially in the press, in a dramatically changed market.

- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, '[Government Response to the Cairncross Review: A Sustainable Future for Journalism](#)', 27 January 2020

Policy paper containing the Government's response to the recommendations outlined in the Cairncross review and suggesting further work that the Government will be undertaking in areas such as court reporting and improving diversity in journalism.

- House of Lords, '[Written Statement: DCMS Matters](#)' 27 January 2020, HLWS63

Written statement from Baroness Morgan of Cotes, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, outlining the Government's response to the Cairncross Review.

Parliamentary Statements and Questions

- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Advertising: Internet](#)', 12 July 2019, HL16927
- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Mass Media: Education](#)', 6 June 2019, 258944
- [Statement by the then Secretary of State for DCMS, Jeremy Wright, on the 'Cairncross Review'](#), HC Hansard, 12 February 2019, cols 772–787
- [Repeat of Statement by the then Secretary of State for DCMS, Jeremy Wright, on the 'Cairncross Review'](#), HL Hansard, 12 February 2019, cols 1765–73
- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Social Media: Disinformation](#)', 12 February 2019, 216116

Press Articles and Comment

- Jim Waterson, '[Ministers Snub Proposals to Fund Public-Interest Reporting](#)', *Guardian*, 27 January 2020
- News Media Association, '[NMA Statement Following the Government's Response to the Cairncross Review](#)', 27 January 2020
- Freddy Mayhew, '[Government Launches £2m Pilot Innovation Fund to Help Find Sustainable Journalism Model](#)', *Press Gazette*, 22 July 2019