

Update on key external matters

1. The update on key external matters is a research-informed piece based on a sample of information available in the public domain.

Commercial Landscape

2. Regional news publishers can now bid for contracts to hire BBC-funded “local democracy” reporters. The pool of 150 reporters are part of the Local News Partnership agreement between the BBC and the News Media Association and will have a remit to report on local councils and other public services.
3. Trinity Mirror is in talks to buy all the publishing assets of Northern & Shell including the Express and Star newspaper titles and magazines including OK.
4. Trinity Mirror has announced that Gloucester daily The Citizen and Cheltenham-based the Gloucestershire Echo will make the switch from being dailies to weeklies in October. A Gloucestershire edition of the Western Daily Press will be launched for readers in the county who want a daily print newspaper.
5. Trinity Mirror has also announced that 40 jobs will be lost across its portfolio of regional titles as it expands content sharing between newspapers and takes more content from Press Association.
6. In an interview on BBC Radio 4's World at One programme, Nick Bell, vice-president of content at Snap explained how Snapchat's in-house team of journalists play a key role in helping it cover the news accurately.
7. The i newspaper has increased its cover price from 50p to 60p. Announcing the price rise, its editor blamed the increasing cost of importing newsprint and the loss of advertising revenue to the likes of Facebook.
8. According to a study by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, The BBC, Guardian and Mail Online are dominating news consumption on computers in the UK while most other news brands struggle with low engagement. The BBC alone made up 39 per cent of the total stories read, the Guardian 14 per cent and the Daily Mail 10 per cent.
9. The Sun was the fastest growing online news brand in July, according to ABC figures, boosting the number of daily average unique browsers on its website to 5.06m – up 96 per cent year-on-year. Mail Online, the UK's most-visited news website, grew online readership by 1 per cent year-on-year to 15.03m. This is more than double nearest rival The Independent.
10. The Metro is the only UK daily national newspaper to have increased its distribution year-on-year, according to the latest circulation figures, bucking the overall trend of declining circulations. The UK's two best-selling daily newspapers, The Sun and the Daily Mail, recorded a drop in circulation year-on-year of 9.5 per

cent and 8 per cent respectively. The Sun's circulation for July was 1.57m while the Daily Mail was at 1.43m. The i newspaper and The Guardian saw circulation shrink by 10 per cent year-on-year to 267,857 and 149,420 respectively.

11. Analysis of ComScore data shows that content on mainstream news media websites was accessed by 95 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds in June, with 89 per cent reading more than one of them. Websites accessed include those of traditional daily newspapers as well as BBC News and Sky News online.
12. According to the latest ABC figures, the London Evening Standard has overtaken the Manchester Evening News to become the most-visited regional news website in the UK.
13. Snapchat has said its in-house team of journalists play a key role in helping it cover the news accurately. As an example, the social network told BBC Radio 4's World at One programme it had fact-checked user-generated coverage from the recent Charlottesville protests with local police before highlighting the posts. See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-41085930>; the story includes a link to the radio interview.
14. The BBC has confirmed the Radio 4 Today programme's newspaper review will expand to include significant stories from influential online websites and foreign publications. The BBC told Press Gazette: "Newspapers will continue to form the backbone of the Today programme news review, but in a modern news environment it makes perfect sense to broaden out to include some significant stories from relevant and influential online sites and foreign publications. Across BBC News we will continue to review the news, whether online or in print, in the same impartial manner we always have."

Political

15. Speaking in a House of Lords debate on improving digital understanding in UK society, Telegraph Media Group executive director Lord Black said he was confident the industry could adapt to challenges posed by the digital revolution, but that legislation including Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act could prevent it.

Regulatory

16. It was announced that The Canary has joined IMPRESS. IMPRESS now regulates 68 publications.

Campaigns

17. Campaign group Hacked Off has produced a video explaining that IPSO has the power to require a newspaper to publish a correction or adjudication on its front page when that newspaper has been found to have broken the rules with a front-page story, but IPSO has chosen not to use it.