

| <u>Commitment</u> | <u>Owner</u> | <u>Delivery to Date</u> |
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| <i>Increase our understanding of the problem</i> | | |
| Call for evidence | Home Office, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) | DCMS and the Home Office published analysis from a Call for Evidence during Journalism Matters Week 2021. |
| Annual survey of journalists | DCMS, National Union of Journalists (NUJ), Society of Editors (SoE) | <p>In March 2022, DCMS launched a Survey of Journalists in collaboration with an external agency, Revealing Reality, with support from the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the Society of Editors (SoE). This looked at the scale and experiences of abuse, their impact and the support systems available, with a view to build on the Call for Evidence.</p> <p>534 journalists responded to the comprehensive survey to share their perceptions of safety operating as a journalist in the UK. As part of the survey, journalists who responded that they had experienced abuse in the last 12 months were asked to complete a further optional set of questions detailing one experience. 10 of these journalists, as well as two media outlets, were selected to participate in follow-up in-depth interviews to further enhance the evidence.</p> <p>DCMS is currently considering options for publication of the Study.</p> |
| Share insights and best practice internationally | FCDO | <p>The Minister for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure attended a meeting of G7 Media Ministers in June 2022. This Media Ministerial looked to demonstrate the G7's ambition to actively contribute to upholding human rights and strengthening democracies by ensuring media pluralism and freedom of expression in the context of globalisation and digital transformation.</p> <p>DCMS has also shared best practice through engagement with international counterparts including Sweden, the Netherlands and Canada.</p> <p>Lord Ahmad, Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations for the FCDO, has promoted the UK National Action Plan at the Global Media Freedom Conference in Tallinn in February, as well as to a meeting of Media Freedom Coalition Ministers, at the same Conference. Lord Ahmad also promoted the Plan at the Vienna Conference on the Safety of Journalists on 4 November as an example of best practice in implementing the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists.</p> <p>At official level, FCDO have offered UK support to the Government of Mexico in their development of a new Prevention and Protection System for</p> |

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| | | journalists and human rights defenders. The FCDO has also discussed and shared our National Action Plan with the Kurdistan Regional Government. |
| <i>Enhance the criminal justice system response in tackling crimes against journalists</i> | | |
| Training for student journalists on police operations | Police forces, National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) | The National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) has collaborated with UK police forces and the NUJ to develop training products aimed at developing journalism students' practical understanding of engaging with police forces. Bespoke training opportunities, including on public order policing, are also underway. |
| Designated journalist safety liaison officer for police forces | Police forces | 22 police forces across the UK have appointed journalist safety liaison officers - both one operational role and one communications role. A further 16 have appointed designated safety liaison officers with solely a communications role. |
| Training for police forces to be updated to reflect the role of journalists | Police forces, NUJ, SoE | Police have held discussions with the NUJ and SoE about opportunities to improve training opportunities for police officers in their understanding of journalists and their work. This is ongoing. The NUJ have had follow up discussions of individual cases with police including arrests of photographers and reporters. |
| Appointment of NPCC lead on crimes against journalists | National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) | Chief Constable Gavin Stephens has been appointed as the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) lead on crimes against journalists. |
| <i>Support journalists and their employers to build the resources they need to protect personal safety</i> | | |
| Publication of guidance of laws on online harassment | Media Lawyers Association | The Media Lawyers Association (MLA) has published a Legal Guide for Journalists in England and Wales focused on combatting online harassment and abuse. |
| Online safety support pack for journalists | NUJ, SoE | The NUJ and SoE have collaborated on an Online Safety Toolkit that was published during Journalism Matters week 2022. This pack covers a variety of issues such as physical and digital safety, mental health and the right to report as well as signposting a number of other helpful resources. The pack will be adapted in response to feedback from journalists following use. |
| Journalists' training on police operations to be reviewed | NUJ, SoE, NCTJ, Police forces | The NUJ has produced a short film aimed at journalists to raise awareness of the issue and provide information about reporting incidents. NUJ members attended a police training day organised by the NPCC, hosted by Avon and Somerset Police and conducted just outside Bristol in November 2022. The NCTJ launched a free e-learning course on journalism safety and resilience during Journalism Matters week 2022. Modules include online safety and the relationship between the police and journalists, as well as the challenges associated with covering domestic terrorism. This resource is available as part |

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| | | of the NCTJ Journalism Skills Academy and is aimed at working journalists, as well as those undertaking professional journalism training. |
| Exploration of the potential to develop an emergency safety fund for journalists | DCMS, NUJ, SoE | <p>Following further engagement with industry, DCMS has concluded that stakeholders' efforts are currently best focused on different interventions to address safety issues.</p> <p>We will continue to keep future intervention under review based on ongoing engagement with journalists on their experiences.</p> |
| Student journalists to receive safety training | NCTJ | <p>The NCTJ launched a free e-learning course on journalism safety during Journalism Matters week 2022, aimed at journalism students and working journalists. Modules include online safety and the relationship between the police and journalists, as well as the challenges of covering domestic terrorism. This resource is available as part of the NCTJ Journalism Skills Academy.</p> <p>In addition, the NCTJ and NPCC have developed a pilot workshop focussed on journalism safety, and particularly on engagement between journalists and the police. The pilot workshop was initially delivered to journalists studying on NCTJ-accredited courses at the Universities of Portsmouth and Bournemouth; there are plans to roll this session out more widely</p> |
| Training for staff and freelancers on managing threats | Publishers, Broadcasters | <p>The BBC has updated its policy for staff and freelancers across the whole of the UK on managing online abuse and harm including new information on reporting incidents and the introduction of a system that logs abuse.</p> <p>Reach plc has provided training in connection to induction policy, response, resilience, and mental health in the workspace. Further work in progress includes physical safety and vicarious trauma.</p> <p>Reach plc has introduced a new reporting system for journalists to log abuse.</p> |
| Review safety policies and collaborate to develop best practice across industry | Publishers, Broadcasters | <p>Dr Rebecca Whittington, Online Safety Editor at Reach plc has delivered a number of panels and participated in panels for academic research events and collaborative industry events in the UK since her appointment.</p> <p>The NMA continues to promote the Action Plan to publisher members and hosts a designed section on its website to signpost resources available to journalists and employers.</p> |
| Ensure safety policies are well publicised to staff and freelancers | Publishers, Broadcasters | <p>The BBC has produced guidelines publicising support for staff and freelancers, including the role of designated safety officers.</p> <p>The above-mentioned Online Safety Toolkit is available to all journalists including freelancers.</p> |
| Establish designated safety officers | Publishers, Broadcasters | <p>Reach plc has appointed an Online Safety Editor, Dr Rebecca Whittington. Reach plc has also trained an Online Safety Rep network of trained volunteers across its workforce.</p> |

Help online platforms to tackle the wider issue of abuse online

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| Introduce an Online Safety Bill | UK Government | The Online Safety Bill was introduced to Parliament in 2022 and is expected to receive Royal Assent in 2023. The Bill introduces new rules for firms which host user-generated content and enable user to user interaction. The Bill will ensure these in-scope services tackle and remove illegal material, give users more choice over their online experiences, and keep children safe. |
| Respond promptly to complaints of threats to journalists' safety | Facebook, Twitter | <p>Online platforms have taken a number of steps to empower journalists to address safety threats. These include Twitter trialling a way to enable people to unmention themselves from a single Tweet, thread or conversation; launching the Twitter Circle experiment giving people the flexibility to narrow who can engage them on the platform; and refreshing its reporting process to remove the burden of interpreting whether a violation amounts to abuse from the individual.</p> <p>Meta has published a journalist safety guide and launched Journalist Registration, which allows staff journalists and freelancers to self-register and benefit from stronger security features against harassment and potential hacking; has launched a tool on Facebook that gives all users, including publishers and journalists the ability to control who can engage with posts to mitigate harassment; and has a dedicated media partnerships team as well as an appointed UK Lead to engage UK Police Forces.</p> |
| <i>Improve public recognition of the value of journalists</i> | | |
| Publication of a media literacy strategy | DCMS | <p>DCMS published the Online Media Literacy Strategy in July 2021. The strategy sets out plans for improving national media literacy capabilities, and supporting the empowerment of users with the key skills and knowledge they need to make safe and informed choices online. The Strategy takes a sector-focused approach to support organisations undertaking media literacy activity to do so in a more wide-reaching and effective way. DCMS has committed to publishing annual Action Plans setting out our delivery plans against the Strategy each Financial Year until at least March 2025.</p> <p>In April 2022, the Government published its year 2 Action Plan, backed by £2 million for this Financial Year alone. This has included: establishing the Media Literacy Taskforce, with representation from The Telegraph and IPSO, to explore extending the reach of media literacy education to citizens who are disengaged; and funding news literacy organisations such as Newguard, Topical Talk, and The Guardian Foundation.</p> |
| Highlight the safety of journalists through Journalism Matters week | DCMS | <p>Journalism Matters Week in November 2021 highlighted the issue of journalist safety including an op-ed from the DCMS Secretary of State.</p> <p>During Journalism Matters Week 2022, the DCMS Secretary of State published an op-ed covering a variety of topics relevant to the press sector including journalists' safety and the National Action Plan.</p> |