

## Terms of Reference

**Aim: Journalists play a crucial role in protecting our democracy. The Committee brings together government, journalists and relevant civil society and criminal justice partners to help ensure that they are able to carry out their important work free from threats, attacks and violence within the UK.**

### Role

- Coordinate work across key partners involved in the protection of journalists' safety.
- Assess how the UK is protecting the safety of journalists, ensuring they are not subject to violence, or threats of violence.
- Identify and agree priorities for journalist safety and develop and publish a National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists operating within the UK
- Maintain oversight of the delivery and effectiveness of the National Action Plan.

### Terms of reference

- The Committee will review the processes and structures in place in the UK which ensure that the physical safety of journalists operating domestically is protected, and that those who threaten journalists are held to account.
- The Committee will consider the structures and measures in place to prevent attacks and threats on journalists acting within the UK, and where appropriate, identify opportunities for further action.
- The Committee will be responsible for drawing up a National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists that will draw together the protective and preventive structures in place in the UK. This document will be published.
- The Committee may also ask observers to report on the safety of UK journalists operating overseas.
- The Committee may choose to engage time-limited sub-committees, aligned with the priorities of the Committee, to support its work and oversee relevant aspects of the National Action Plan.

### Membership

- The Committee will be co-chaired by relevant ministers from DCMS and the Home Office
- It will be supported by a secretariat from DCMS
- Members will include senior representatives from the police, prosecutors and journalism organisations.
- The Committee may choose to invite individual journalists to attend on an ad hoc basis to share their experience.
- The Committee may ask representatives of other government departments, organisations or bodies to attend as observers.

### Meetings

- Meetings will take place biannually.
- Agendas will be provided by the Secretariat, taking into account suggestions made by Committee Members.
- Meetings will be held under the Chatham House Rule.
- Minutes will be published.