

# BROADCAST 2040+ MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The campaign has had an exciting start to 2024. We've mainly focused on engagement with the government's Media Bill, which saw its Report Stage occur on the 30th January. We worked closely with a number of MPs to raise our case in Parliament as part of the Bill's progress. For many members of the coalition, this Bill has been a pivotal moment to ensure their members' issues are raised and heard by government.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH

On 30th January, 2024, the Media Bill underwent its Report Stage of in the House of Commons. In the debate we saw the issue of protecting broadcast TV and radio services, being highlighted by a number of MPs. Most notably, the campaign was working closely with Douglas Ross MP, who put forward an amendment to the Bill, which would have seen these services being safeguarded into law beyond 2040.

Douglas spoke about the Broadcast 2040+ campaign, congratulating our work to protect these vital services. He highlighted the lack of certainty for broadcast services beyond 2034. Douglas also gave a shout out to some of our partners: the Digital Poverty Alliance, Age UK and the Rural Services Network - highlighting why they are part of the campaign. We are truly grateful for Douglas Ross MP's comments and the support he has given to the campaign.



From the Labour side, Thangam Debbonaire MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport) highlighted that millions still rely on traditional TV services, especially our most vulnerable communities: *"This group of people primarily includes older residents, families in rural areas and those struggling with bills as a result of the cost of living crisis. It is crucial that they can still access public service content as usual"*

We also saw support from Kirsty Blackman MP (SNP Spokesperson for Culture, Media and Sport) stating that for children, access to good quality education and entertainment is fundamental. She said that for children who cannot afford smartphones or online systems *"the only way they can access good children's content may be through the public service broadcasters and their free-to-air services"*.

There were also positive contributions made by David Duguid MP (Conservative) and Jamie Stone MP (Lib Dem) who echoed Douglas Ross MP's comments, demonstrating the importance of broadcast services for rural communities.

In response, Julia Lopez MP (Minister for Culture, Media and Sport) said 2034 was not a "cliff-edge" moment for DTT. This is a stronger statement than we have previously heard from the government and a testament to the campaign's work.

However, without the security of being safeguarded into law, there is still a risk that government and Ofcom won't protect these services beyond 2034.

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*The campaign group Broadcast 2040+ has assembled a coalition of groups representing those who rely on broadcast services the most. They include older people, who rely disproportionately on terrestrial television... Because they are free to air, they are also a lifeline to people on lower incomes or living in digital poverty... I highlight the importance of broadcast services for rural constituents*

Douglas Ross MP speaking in the Media Bill Report Stage debate

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### WHAT'S COMING UP IN FEBRUARY?

For the next month the campaign is going to continue to focus on the Media Bill and engaging with Parliamentarians across the House, to push government further to commit to protecting these services. As the Media Bill is now entering the Lords, we expect these stages to occur over the next few months. We ask for you, as our partners, to write to members of the House of Lords to share with them why the Media Bill is a critical moment for government to protect broadcast services beyond 2040. If you would like any support on drafting letters, do not hesitate to get in touch.

### GET IN TOUCH

If you want to get more involved in the campaign, there are a number of ways you can help. In the partner pack there are template letters you can use to write to Ofcom and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, about what more they can be doing to protect broadcast TV and radio. The campaign can also support partners in setting up meetings with key stakeholders, writing evidence for inquiries relevant to the campaign and other political activity. Reaching out with an intro letter and making your network aware of our mission would be a great way to support the campaign, or you could share our posts on your social channels. The more people who are aware of our campaign, the more we can make a real difference!

Finally, if you are working on a project, report or want to share activity you have been up to, please send in your update for our next newsletter to [contact@broadcast2040plus.org](mailto:contact@broadcast2040plus.org).

