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Report: Who Owns the UK Media?

March 12, 2019 By [Media Reform Coalition](#)



We produced our first comprehensive [report](#) on media ownership in the UK back in 2015 when we argued concentrated ownership was a significant problem for any modern democracy. In 2019, we produced an [updated version](#) that suggests that, not only does concentrated ownership persist but that the problem may be getting worse.

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companies (News UK, Daily Mail Group, Reach, Guardian and Telegraph) dominate nearly 80% of the market, slightly up from our last report. In the area of local news, just five companies (Gannett, Johnston Press [whose titles were later bought by JPIMedia], Trinity Mirror, Tindle and Archant) account for 80% of titles (back in 2015, six companies had the same share). Two companies have 46% of all commercial local analogue radio stations and two-thirds of all commercial digital stations.

The digital landscape is hardly less concentrated. Google dominates search while popular apps like Instagram and WhatsApp are owned by Facebook, itself the most popular social media site. New, digital-only news sites have emerged as a significant force since our last report but these are overshadowed by the continuing grip of legacy news and, especially, national newspaper titles.

The BBC remains a powerful presence in online and broadcasting but its budget has been massively cut by the last two licence fee deals and its room for manoeuvre has been limited by commercial competition and political pressure to be mindful of its impact on the wider commercial market.

We believe that concentration in news and information markets in particular has reached endemic levels in the UK and that we urgently need effective remedies. Concentrated ownership creates conditions in which wealthy individuals and organisations can amass vast political and economic power and distort the media landscape to suit their interests. Urgent action is needed in order both to address high levels of concentration in particular media markets and to protect against further concentration in others.

We hope that this report will provide data and arguments that will be useful to all those who want to campaign for a more pluralistic media in which a genuine diversity of views, voices and opinions are aired.

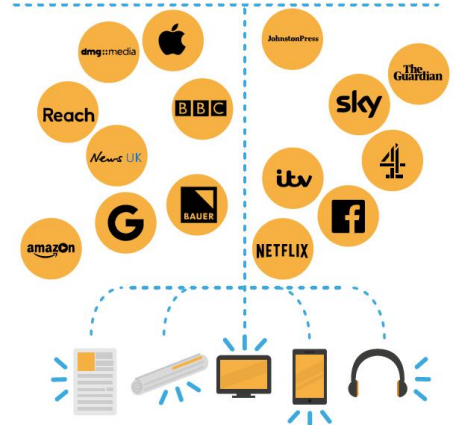
To see the full report, [click here](#).

For the executive summary, [click here](#).

For all the data sheets, [click here](#).

If you have questions or want a hard copy of the report, please email info@mediareform.org.uk

WHO OWNS THE UK MEDIA?



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Comments



rooster says

October 13, 2016 at 11:09 am

as soon as I retire I am stopping my BBC license fee. its the only way to push back against the incessant neo-liberal, scare-mongering, destructive propoganda. al jazeera is much more balanced (but i will miss the bbc world service, which is not quite so one-eyed)



inka says

November 17, 2016 at 7:25 pm

After reading your report, my understanding is that despite Sky News commanding more revenue, the BBC still has the biggest free to air viewership that rivals Sky News closely in numbers. So your dramatic graphics are possibly misleading.



Michael Young says

December 10, 2016 at 7:51 pm

Here, here ...

JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR MEDIA REFORM

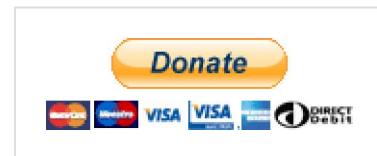
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commercial interests. They don't represent a diverse range of people and views and they're completely unaccountable to the audiences they're supposed to serve. We believe that a flourishing, diverse and accountable media is essential for a healthy, functioning democracy.

For the price of just one cup of coffee per month, you can help support the growing movement for media democracy. Members get priority access to all our reports and events including the annual Media Democracy Festival, as well as being linked to national and local networks to organise on media reform issues.

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MEDIA REFORM TWEETS

Tweets by @mediareformUK

**Media Reform UK**

@mediareformUK

Important points - far from being solely an
"Australian problem"

<https://twitter.com/natalieben/status/1330059374816075777>

Nov 21, 2020

**Media Reform UK**

@mediareformUK

Don't miss this meeting "The War on the BBC"
organised by CPBF North with [@ta_mills](#)

[@JulianPetley](#) Pat Holland & Patrick Barwise

6pm 19 November

coldtype.net/MediaNorth.html

Nov 14, 2020

**Media Reform UK**

@mediareformUK

Strange that no one from the media reform or
labour movement is there

https://twitter.com/ta_mills/status/1326813754881945601

Nov 12, 2020

[Embed](#)[View on Twitter](#)

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