

Making Sense of Media Bulletin

December 2022

Thank you to everyone who shared their updates of initiatives, research, and events for December's Making Sense of Media bulletin. We have provided points of contact wherever possible, for purposes of collaboration between network members. Submissions are listed alphabetically under the categories below; please click on the quick links if you would like to go directly to specific categories. Please note that an individual's submissions are only included in very exceptional circumstances. Rather, we prioritise joint, departmental, or organisational updates and publications. A reminder that these updates are provided by our network members and reflect the views of the individual members. Inclusion here does not imply endorsement by Ofcom.

You can find [previous bulletins](#) on our website.

Quick links

[Ofcom activity](#)

[Events](#)

[Research](#)

[Projects and initiatives](#)

[International](#)

Ofcom activity

Community-based media literacy interventions

We are running a tender for organisations delivering targeted, community-based interventions that help to develop the online media literacy of people within their community.

To view the tenders, please register on our [eTendering portal](#) and see 'current opportunities'. The deadline for submission of tenders is midday on **7 December 2022**.

Freelance opportunity for a Media Literacy and Mental Health Consultant

We need help to identify approaches for integrating media literacy into the delivery of mental health support. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please email ofcomresourcing@omnirms.com to request the job description.

Tech Shock- from Parent Zone Podcast

Ofcom's Anna-Sophie Harling and Caroline Cason spoke to Tech Shock, the podcast from Parent Zone, which looks at how digital technology is affecting family life. Their conversation covers our role regulating VSPs and what parents and children think about age-assurance. The episode is on all podcast platforms including [Spotify](#).

Day in the Life Event

On Thursday 10th November, we were joined by 50 network members for our virtual event to mark the publication of our [Day in the Life](#) research. Revealing Reality presented some example case studies from the research, and we had a range of interesting questions from the audience. The detailed case studies can be viewed here as the event was not recorded (in line with our Data Protection policies).

Advisory Panel and Working Group updates

The first meeting of the MSOM Advisory Panel was held on 24 October. [Minutes](#) of this meeting are published on the Ofcom website. The next meeting will be held on 24 January 2023.

The first meeting of the **Research Working Group** was held on Monday 3 October. [Minutes](#) of this meeting are published on the Ofcom website. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1 December, and will have a focus on Digital Wellbeing.

The first meeting of the **Establish Working Group** met on the 6 October. [Minutes](#) of this meeting are published on the Ofcom website. Our next session will be held in January 2023.

The first meeting of the **Evaluate Working Group** met on the 30 November. Minutes of this session will be published in due course on the Ofcom website. More information to come on future meetings.

Global Online Safety Regulators Network launched

Regulators from Australia, Fiji, Ireland and the United Kingdom are joining forces to encourage and coordinate global efforts to make the online world a safer place. The new [Global Online Safety Regulators Network](#) was formally launched at the Family Online Safety Institute Conference in Washington DC.

The Network is a collaboration between the first movers in online safety regulation – Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Fiji's Online Safety Commission and Ofcom in the UK – with support from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. It is intended to pave the way for a coherent international

approach to online safety regulation, by enabling new online safety regulators to share information, experience and best practices.

Media Plurality

US tech firms increasingly shape the news stories that people in the UK see and read, Ofcom has found, leading to risks around transparency and choice in news.

In a new [study](#) of choice in news, we have identified concerns around the impact of online news ‘gatekeepers’ – particularly social media, such as Facebook, but also search engines and news apps such as Apple News and Google News.

Our report highlights how far these companies – which are used by two in three online adults for news – determine not only how much of the online news people see, but also how they respond to it.

----- [Back to top](#) -----

Events

Centre for Excellence in Media Practice, Bournemouth University

[The Global Media Education Summit](#) (MES) is a collaboration between CEMP in the UK and Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, taking place **March 2-4 2023**. MES 23 is an in-person conference with some virtual panels and reduced rate registration fee for colleagues from locations across the Global South.

For more information please contact: jmcdougall@bournemouth.ac.uk

The Guardian Foundation

The Guardian Foundation will be running a [free webinar](#) for librarians on **15 December**. The session will share a range of media literacy activities and resources from Behind the Headlines and NewsWise that can be used to support young people aged 7-18 in a variety of contexts.

For more information please contact: behindtheheadlines@theguardianfoundation.org or newswise@theguardianfoundation.org

----- [Back to top](#) -----

Research

SWGfL

Report Harmful Content launches their annual report providing insights into the types of harmful content online people across the UK are experiencing and reporting.

For more information please contact: kathryn.tremlett@swgfl.org.uk

Projects and initiatives

EKOME - National Centre of Audiovisual Media and Communication

EKOME & the EU Sub Chapter Mediterranean Group of UNESCO Media & Information Literacy Alliance [launched a Call for Articles](#) for the special online iDea publication on the theme of “Media & Information Literacy in the Post-Pandemic Era: Takeaways and Challenges on a Global Scale”.

Internet Matters

[What are NFTs and cryptocurrency?](#) Non-fungible tokens, or NFTs, are shaping the future of the internet. Along with cryptocurrency, it has inspired many children and young people to explore new ways to make money. This might put them at risk for a variety of online harms that parents need to know of.

[County Lines](#). Resources to support parents, carers and professionals. Together with safeguarding agency Praesidio, Internet Matters have created a resource page to learn how to report county lines exploitation and where to get support.

For more information please contact: simone.vibert@internetmatters.org

Rochdale Circle CIC t/a Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale Circle

HMR Circle worked with the University of Manchester to [investigate the Digital Divide amongst older people and the general population](#). The work highlighted the barriers to engagement and possible solutions to getting more older people online and/or improving the digital skills and literacy.

Youthworks Consulting

Fostering in a Digital Age is a free accredited course for foster carers, created with carers, children, online safety specialists and psychologists. It outlines a new approach to online safety and offers a library of resources and tools on the [enable-pathway website](#). Supported by Nominet.

For more information please contact: akatz@youthworksconsulting.co.uk

International

EMIL (EPRA) – ERGA

Europe’s media regulators met to mark Global MIL week; Trust and News: ‘How does News and Information Literacy work?’ The event was jointly organised and [recorded](#) by the EU expert group

ERGA, and EMIL – the European network that brings together media regulators and other coordinating bodies who focus on media literacy.

Getting Better Foundation

"Trust Me" Documentary and Educational Program for Countering Mis- and Dis-information brings awareness of peoples' need for media literacy to build trust, resilience, support credible journalism, and preserve democracy.

For more information please contact: rosemary.smith@gettingbetterfoundation.org