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Clare Adamson MSP  
Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External  
Affairs and Culture Committee

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11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Clare,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence on 26 February 2026, for the final session on the Committee's inquiry into broadcasting in Scotland.

I would like to thank the Committee for the work that they have done throughout the course of the inquiry, which will be a valuable contribution to a generational opportunity for change presented through the BBC Charter review.

At this session I undertook to write to you and the Committee to set out what the Scottish Government is doing to support public interest journalism in Scotland.

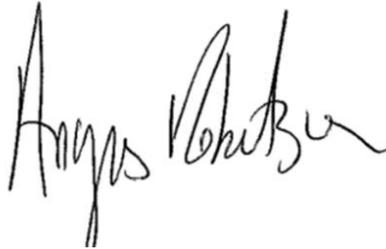
As you may be aware, in June 2022 the Scottish Government welcomed proposals to establish a [Scottish Public Interest Journalism Institute](#) (now Initiative), following the recommendations of a short-life Working Group which was established by the Scottish Government. The Initiative will be independent of the Scottish Government, and its broad remit will be to help support our public interest journalism sector towards a sustainable future.

The Scottish Government is currently providing secretariat support to a Steering Group, led by industry, tasked with the establishment of the Initiative. The Initiative, which meets regularly, is in its final stages of registration at Companies House. Once registration is completed, the Steering Group will explore avenues for support for the Initiative and its work, including by engaging with relevant stakeholder bodies and charities. The Scottish Government will maintain its secretariat function, and will continue to work with the Steering Group and the Initiative, once established, to ensure the future strength of the sector.

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As I set out at Committee, the Scottish Government is a strong supporter of the Initiative and of the public interest journalism sector, whilst respecting the independence of this new body. I am clear that a free, independent press is the bedrock of every well-functioning democracy, and I look forward to the work that the Initiative takes forward to ensure that public interest journalism in Scotland can continue to play a vital role in empowering and informing communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

**ANGUS ROBERTSON**

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