

Mr Hussain Bayoomi
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Dear Mr Bayoomi

Potential Job Losses at Newsquest Newport

My attention has been drawn to redundancy proposals for production staff and journalists at Newsquest's sub-editing hub in Newport. I understand that consultations with staff on the proposals are currently underway on the proposals.

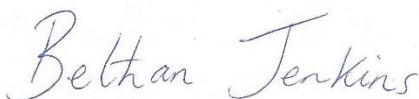
On behalf of the Assembly's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, I would like to express my grave concern at this development. Not only is it worrying that job losses are proposed but the scale of them seems to bring into question the future of the hub itself.

The fact that consultations over redundancy are, as I understand it, happening over the Christmas period must be a further worry for the staff affected and does not seem like the action of a compassionate employer.

I have also been told that the company was given substantial Welsh Government grant funding to support jobs growth as recently as last year. Despite this, overall numbers of jobs have continued to fall. The future of local journalism is of considerable concern to my Committee and we are anxious to see it supported. However, it would be a matter of concern if public money was being used, effectively, to support a redundancy programme.

I am of course aware that I may not have the full picture. I would, therefore be grateful for any reassurance you can offer as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely



Bethan Jenkins AM
Committee Chair

