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26 July 2022

Dear Owen,

Thank you for your email sent on 11 July, and apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I would be pleased to meet with the News Media Association Board when possible and agree there are some important policy issues to work through.

I hope that you were reassured by my track record as Chancellor that I strongly back the newspaper industry. Early on in the pandemic, we were deeply concerned about reports of the potential loss of some important local, regional and even national publications - but through intensive work together, particularly on advertising, this situation was thankfully averted.

That said, I know the long term sustainability of this vital industry cannot be taken for granted, which is why as Chancellor I pushed for the creation of the Digital Markets Unit and for it to be put on a statutory footing with real teeth. I also took the decision to zero-rate VAT on digital publications, something long overdue, which will support digital revenues and has reduced prices for consumers.

I support the growth of digital industries, but believe we will only achieve a thriving digital economy in the UK with properly functioning markets. I am therefore happy to confirm that **I would take forward the promised Digital Markets legislation this autumn,** including measures to ensure fair terms between publishers and platforms, if I am selected as Conservative Party Leader and Prime Minister.

Finally, I can confirm to you now that I will **repeal section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act as a matter of urgency**. It's vital that we remove this measure which seeks to coerce the press and stifle free speech ahead of the next General Election.

Thank you for getting in touch, and I hope to see you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP