

Public Interest News Foundation

# UK Local News Report

April 2024



**The PINF UK Local News Report.**

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# 1. Introduction

**The Public Interest News Foundation (PINF) has updated the Local News Map through a series of automations that have improved sustainability and data quality.**

In June 2023, PINF released an interactive map of local news outlets in the UK, and followed this with an analysis of the data underlying the map: [Deserts, Oases and Drylands](#). PINF's [Local News Map](#) is a one-of-a-kind living product, available to all, to understand which local news media serve communities across the UK and the characteristics of these outlets. It took six months to collect and organise the data that powers it: researching the UK's local news landscape is a large and complex task, requiring many hours of work and, as with any map, certain compromises to reach completion.

Since the map's launch, we have been in conversation with domain experts and academics to understand ways to keep the map alive in a sustainable way, including methods for reducing the research time required. This conversation is still open, but in March 2024, PINF received a small grant from the UK Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport as a contribution towards automating data collection, updating the dataset and improving the visualisation. As at April 2024 we have now implemented several automations to process publicly available information about local news media to facilitate and improve the maintenance of the PINF Local News Map dataset.

These automations have allowed us to update the map to reflect any changes that have occurred in the local news landscape since our first release of the map in July 2023, including outlet closures or launches, or changes in ownership of outlets. While a small number of changes have been made to the map on a quarterly

basis prior to this project, this required users to report issues directly to PINF. This latest work, using the automations described in the next section, has resulted in a comprehensive, systematic update, resulting in cleaner, more consistent dataset, one that we believe provides an excellent foundation for an ongoing mapping project.

This better dataset created the opportunity for a new analysis of the data, and further automations have been created to power this analysis, and potentially to do so more easily on a more regular basis.

In this report, you will find the analysis of the data as it stands at April 2024: our best understanding of the state of local news in the UK at this time (section 2). Then follows an explanation of the automations that help researchers to check and update the dataset, and those that help produce the analysis (section 3). The report concludes with some ideas for the future (section 4). Appendices include the full data, definitions and methodology, and a list of changes that have been made to the dataset.

## 2. State of the Sector

**This section provides an analysis of the data as at April 2024. It looks at the UK-wide picture, then compares local areas, and summarises outlet ownership.**

### 2.1 Summary

#### **Outlets, nations and regions, media types**

- There are approximately 1,196 local news outlets in the UK, according to our local news definition (see 'Definitions' appended), an average of one outlet per 56,000 people.
- England is underserved according to its population, while all other nations have slightly greater numbers of outlets than the UK average.
- The greatest proportion of local news outlets operate in print and online (47%), followed by community radio (23%), online (23%), and then print-only (3%). Local TV and BBC Local Radio account for 2% of all outlets, respectively.

#### **Deserts, oases and drylands**

- There are 28 'absolute' news deserts in the UK (they lack *any* coverage from a local news outlet), while another 10 districts are 'relative' news deserts (they lack *a dedicated* local news outlet).

Lewisham is the largest absolute desert by population, while the largest relative desert is Sutton.

- 'News oases', the best served districts in the country, include Bath, Highland, and East Devon.
- Controlling for population, oases include several districts in the South West of England and the North West of Scotland. Notably, more populated districts are more poorly served once the number of outlets is put against the population size of the area.
- Among 'news drylands', areas that are poorly served given their population size, are Wakefield and Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

### **Ownership**

- There are 419 publishers in the UK. The largest publishers by number of outlets, Newsquest, Reach, and National World, own 37.6% of the local news outlets, regardless of medium.
- For 101 (28%) Local Authority Districts a single publisher holds a monopoly, either due to being covered by solely one outlet, or by several outlets from the same publisher. Newsquest has 24 monopolies, while National World has 21.

## 2.2 UK-wide overview

	July 2023	April 2024
Number of outlets	1,641	1,196 (1,625 previous methodology)
Number of publishers		419
Number of monopoly LADs		101
Closures / Launches		18 / 4
Outlet per people	1/40,000	1/56,020
Mean outlets per LAD	4.5	3.5 (standard deviation 3.5)
Mean publishers per LAD		2.7 (standard deviation 2.4)
News deserts (LADs)	38	28 absolute deserts (no outlets at all) and 10 relative (no dedicated outlet but covered by an outlet that covers several LADs)
People living in a news desert (millions)	4.1	4.7 (3.3 in an absolute desert and 1.4 in a relative one)
Independent outlets (%)	44.5	48.3

### Methodological changes since last year

Before the full analysis of the data, it is useful to explain where the presented statistics come from and how we have obtained the figures. To be included on the [Local News Map](#)<sup>1</sup>, an outlet must fulfil a set of criteria (see 'Definitions', appended). At the time of our first report in July 2023, we had identified 1,641 active outlets, yet not all fulfilled all of the criteria we set. In the original report, we opted for broadness and included all of them in the analysis. For the analysis in this April 2024 report, we include solely those outlets that fulfil our criteria.

One other significant change from the 2023 report, is that we have **implemented a new criterion to distinguish between regional and local outlets**, based on the number of Local Authority Districts (LADs) covered by an outlet. **Outlets will only be defined as 'local' if they cover fewer**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.publicinterestnews.org.uk/map>



**than five LADs.** If they cover five or more LADs, they are defined as regional outlets and not mapped or included in this analysis. (See 'Definitions', appended, for more information). We think this methodological change helps us more clearly identify news deserts and drylands from a perspective of local news provision. Although we acknowledge that some regional outlets might provide quality local news coverage to the communities they say they serve, it is beyond the scope of this report to verify this.

It is useful to remember that **our criteria act more as methodological boundaries than a reflection of the utility of a local news outlet.** In fact, there are many local Facebook groups, community magazines, WhatsApp groups, and volunteer-led blogs dedicated to local news that provide communities across the UK with relevant information - and sometimes likely the most "truly local" type of information they can get. But from a methodological perspective including unincorporated outlets makes it highly challenging to collect data at scale. By setting a list of criteria, which we generated in conversation with academics, stakeholders, and experts, we can be more confident our data captures what we have set to capture, and help us provide an overview of local media outlets that a) we can reasonably keep track of, and b) are likely to provide meaningfully local coverage, as opposed to regional coverage.

As a result of the above methodological changes, **the total number of outlets in April 2024 - 1,196** - is much smaller than previously reported (1,641). While our research finds that between July 2023 and April 2024 the **number of outlet closures (18) is larger than that of outlet launches (4)**, this substantial decrease in the overall number of outlets in the map is mostly explained by those changes in research methodology. If we counted all active outlets, regardless of these criteria, the overall number of active outlets in the database would be 1,625, suggesting **relative year-on-year stability in the number of local news outlets.**

We are aware this impacts the interpretability of the longitudinal trends between the two reports. For example, the **percentage of independent outlets is higher** now than before as the geographical threshold introduced for local news coverage (which has the aim to filter out large regional outlets) results in the exclusion of large outlets owned disproportionately by corporate publishers.

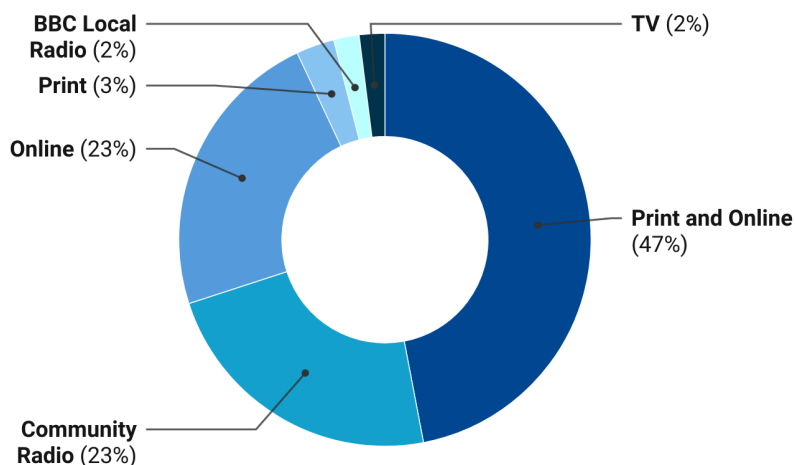
Feedback on last year's report has led us to define **two types of news deserts: absolute and relative.** An absolute news desert is a local authority district (LAD) that is covered by zero local news outlets. A relative news desert is a LAD that lacks a dedicated local news outlet (i.e. an outlet that solely serves that LAD and no others), but is covered by another local news outlet that covers one-to-three other LADs too.

**The number of absolute news deserts - a LAD receiving zero coverage - as per our data is 28.** The number of relative news deserts - with no dedicated outlet - is 10.

There are **419 owners of local news outlets** in the UK. Of the 361 LADs in the UK, 101 (28%) are news monopolies, in the sense that only one owner covers these areas, be it by owning the sole outlet or by owning all the outlets serving that LAD.

## Media type

In terms of media type, outlets which are a combination of print and online remain the majority (47%). These are followed by community radio (23%), 'online only' (23%), 'print only' (3%), and finally BBC Local Radio (2%) and local TV (2%). These percentages are consistent with what we observed in July 2023.



## Launches and closures

Throughout this latest wave of research, we have recorded eighteen closures and four launches. Launches include [Blackpool Lead](#) by Scram Media Ltd, which started as a newsletter and online site, recently producing its first print copy. [The Glasgow Wrap](#), built on Substack, was launched recently by Newsquest, and follows the trend of email-first news outlets. Finally, the South Manchester Post and the Stockport Post were launched to merge a series of smaller outlets by Drawing Board Productions CIC. Stockport Post incorporates the hyperlocal publications Heaton Post, Cheadle Post, Bramhall Post, Edgeley Post, Hazel Grove Post and Romiley & Marple Post. South Manchester Post incorporates Wythenshawe, Gorton, Clayton, and Openshaw.

Outlet	Publisher	Event	Local Authority District	Number of outlets	Outlets per 100,000 people	Population
Blackpool Lead	Scram Media Ltd	Launch	Blackpool	3	2.13	140,954
Glasgow Wrap	Newsquest	Launch	Glasgow City	13	2.05	635,130
Manchester South Post	Drawing Board Productions CIC	Launch	Manchester	15	2.73	549,853
Stockport Post	Drawing Board Productions CIC	Launch	Stockport	3	1.02	295,243

In terms of closures, several match the above reported Drawing Board Productions CIC incorporated Post outlets. Of all other closures, only a few were reported by the industry press, namely the closure of Charlton Champion in the summer of 2023, and the closure of three Cheadle & Tean Times Ltd outlets in the Staffordshire area, which also occurred in the summer of 2023, and represented the dissolution of a 127-year-old family newspaper business.

The Basingstoke Observer, which had already been closed in 2018 and relaunched in the same year, seems to have ceased publication since May 2023, when Observer Media Group applied to Companies House to be struck off the register and dissolved. Bourne Local has ceased to exist as a separate outlet, which was detected by the fact it was missing from the latest ABC data, and confirmed by Iliffe Media, who state that Bourne-area content can be found in the Stamford Mercury and online via LincsOnline. Purbeck Coast FM was closed in January 2024<sup>2</sup>, and Lyme Online announced its closure in September 2023<sup>3</sup>.

We have found several outlets to be inactive, and believe them to be closed, although it is hard to say for sure exactly when they did so. Bedworth Nub News, Brighton & Hove Independent, Causeway Coast Community News, Crowborough Life, and Takeover Radio (Leicester). Notably, the closure of Bedworth Nub News means that Nuneaton and Bedworth has become a news desert.

Some additional closures, notably several '...Live' websites by Reach that were closed in autumn 2023, have occurred since our July 2023 report. They do not make up the statistics in this report as they had already been removed from the map. Finally, our research led to numerous small adjustments to the data, and removal or addition of outlets for other reasons other than launches and closures. For a full list of changes, see the Appendix.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.swanage.news/purbeck-coast-community-radio-station-axed/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/LymeOnlineUK/status/1702653690765525491>

Outlet	Publisher	Event	Local Authority District	Number of outlets	Outlets per 100,000 people	Population
Bedworth Nub News	Nub News Limited	Closure	Nuneaton and Bedworth	0	0	134,291
Uttoxeter Echo	Cheadle & Tean Times Limited	Closure	East Staffordshire	1	0.80	124,477
Bramhall Post	Drawing Board Productions Cic	Closure	Stockport	3	1.02	295,243
Cheadle Post	Drawing Board Productions Cic	Closure	Stockport	3	1.02	295,243
Heatons Post	Drawing Board Productions Cic	Closure	Stockport	3	1.02	295,243
Basingstoke Observer	Observer Media Group Ltd	Closure	Basingstoke and Deane	2	1.08	185,656
Brighton & Hove Independent	National World Plc	Closure	Brighton and Hove	6	2.17	276,334
Takeover Radio (Leicester)	Takeover Radio Children's Media Trust	Closure	Leicester	8	2.19	366,018
Didsbury Post	Drawing Board Productions Cic	Closure	Manchester	15	2.73	549,853
Bourne Local	Iliffe Media Limited	Closure	South Kesteven	3	2.09	143,787
Crowborough Life		Closure	Wealden	4	2.49	160,749
Dawlish Post	Drawing Board Productions Cic	Closure	Teignbridge	4	2.96	135,216
Cheadle & Tean Times	Cheadle & Tean Times Limited	Closure	Staffordshire Moorlands	4	4.17	95,993
Leek and Moorlands Echo	Cheadle & Tean Times Limited	Closure	Staffordshire Moorlands	4	4.17	95,993
Charlton Champion	FLYOVER MEDIA C.I.C.	Closure	Staffordshire Moorlands	4	4.17	95,993
Causeway Coast Community News		Closure	Causeway Coast and Glens	6	4.24	141,664
Lyme Online	Lyme Regis Media Limited	Closure	Dorset	18	4.72	381,292
Purbeck Coast FM (Swanage, Dorset)	Swanage Pier Trust(The)	Closure	Dorset	18	4.72	381,292

The chart on the right shows where the launches and closures have occurred. Notably, only one launch, the Stockport Post, in Stockport, is in a district that is below the national average when it comes to number of outlets and outlets per 100,000 people.

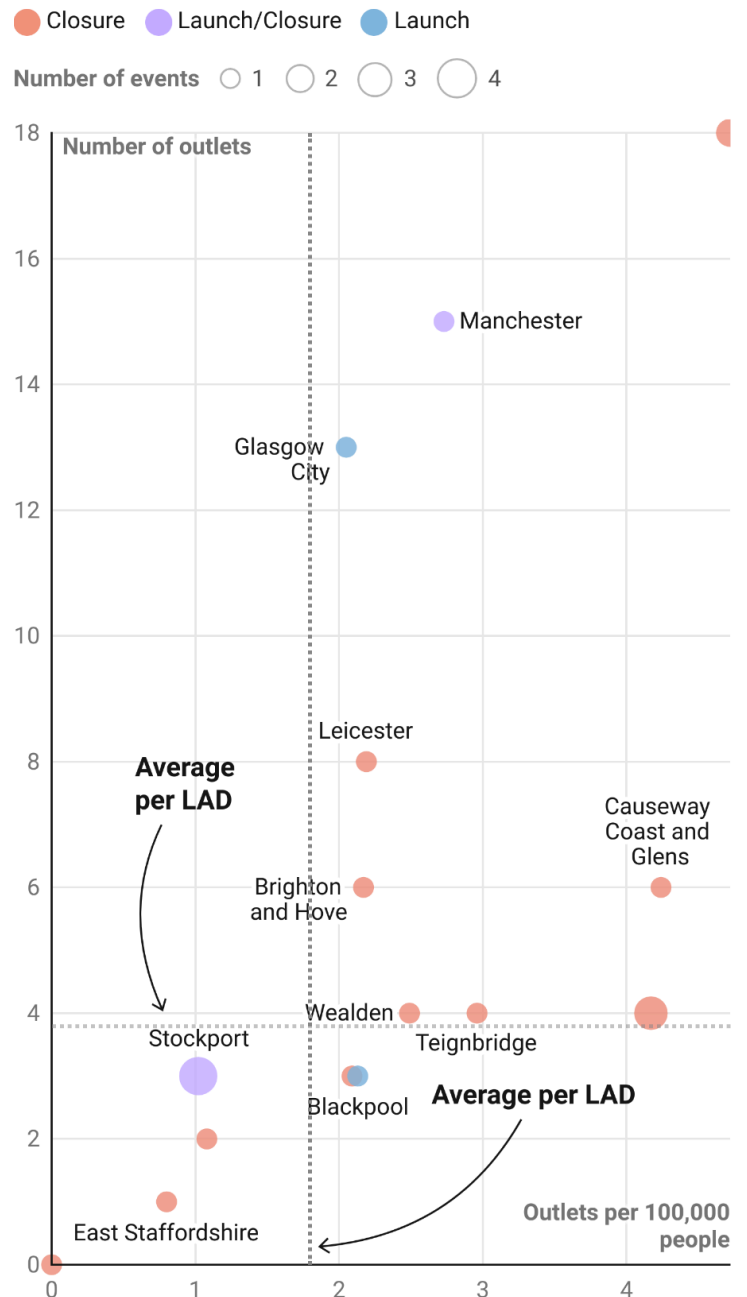
Nonetheless, the launch of the Glasgow Wrap has implied an improvement for Glasgow City particularly in terms of the number of outlets per 100,000, while the launch of the Blackpool Lead has improved the outlook for Blackpool, which with three outlets now serves its population slightly better than the national average.

While most closures have occurred in districts that are better served than the national average, several have occurred in districts that are below the national average.

East Staffordshire, Stockport, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Basingstoke and Deane are four districts which are poorly covered respective to the national average, and for which recent closures have meant these areas have become even weaker than before.

### Local news outlets launches and closures

Visualising the districts where such events have occurred, and their news coverage performance



## 2.3 Comparing local authority areas

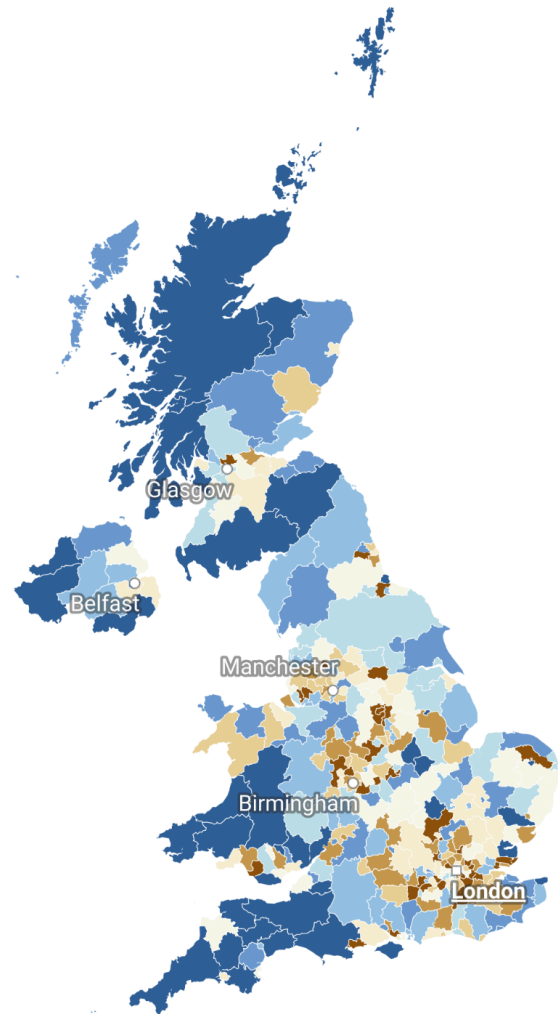
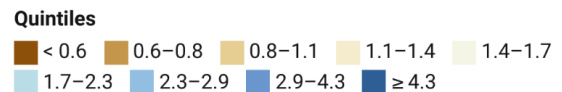
The distribution of local news outlets across Local Authority Districts in the UK, and across nations, is uneven. There are clusters of districts where local news presence is stronger than average, such as large parts of Northern Ireland, the Highlands, the southern part of Scotland, central and western Wales, and the South West of England.

On the other hand, more densely populated parts of the country, including the Central Belt in Scotland, London, the Midlands, and parts of the North East are instead the worst covered in terms of number of outlets per 100,000 people. English districts, in particular, experience a much lower than average news presence than Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. In Greater London, the only district that is well above the median in terms of provision per 100,000 people is the City, which is merely the result of one outlet combined with a population of about 8,500.

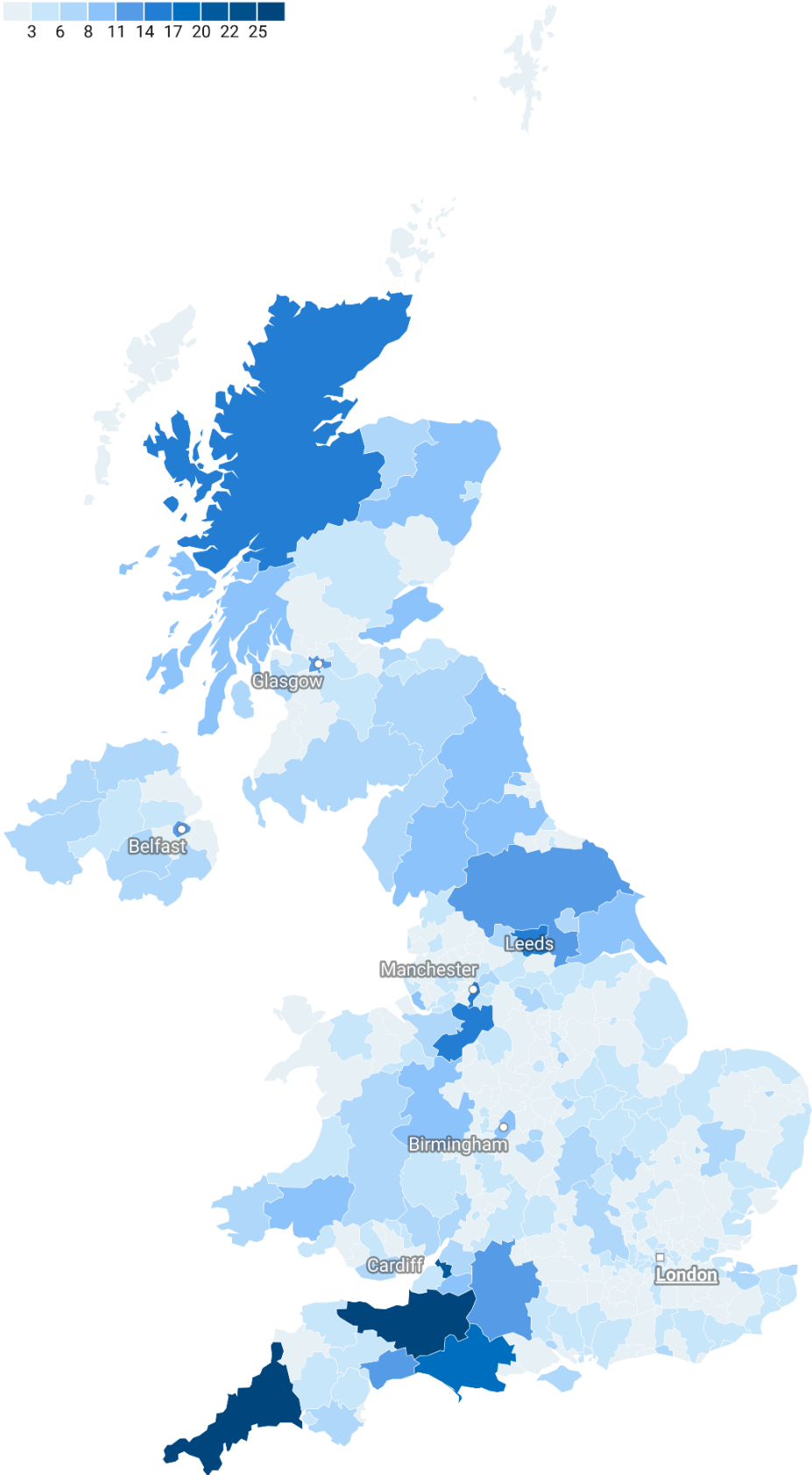


### Number of outlets per 100,000 people

Districts are divided in groups of equal size. The darker brown ones are districts that belong to groups that perform worst in terms of local news provision, while darker blue ones perform best.

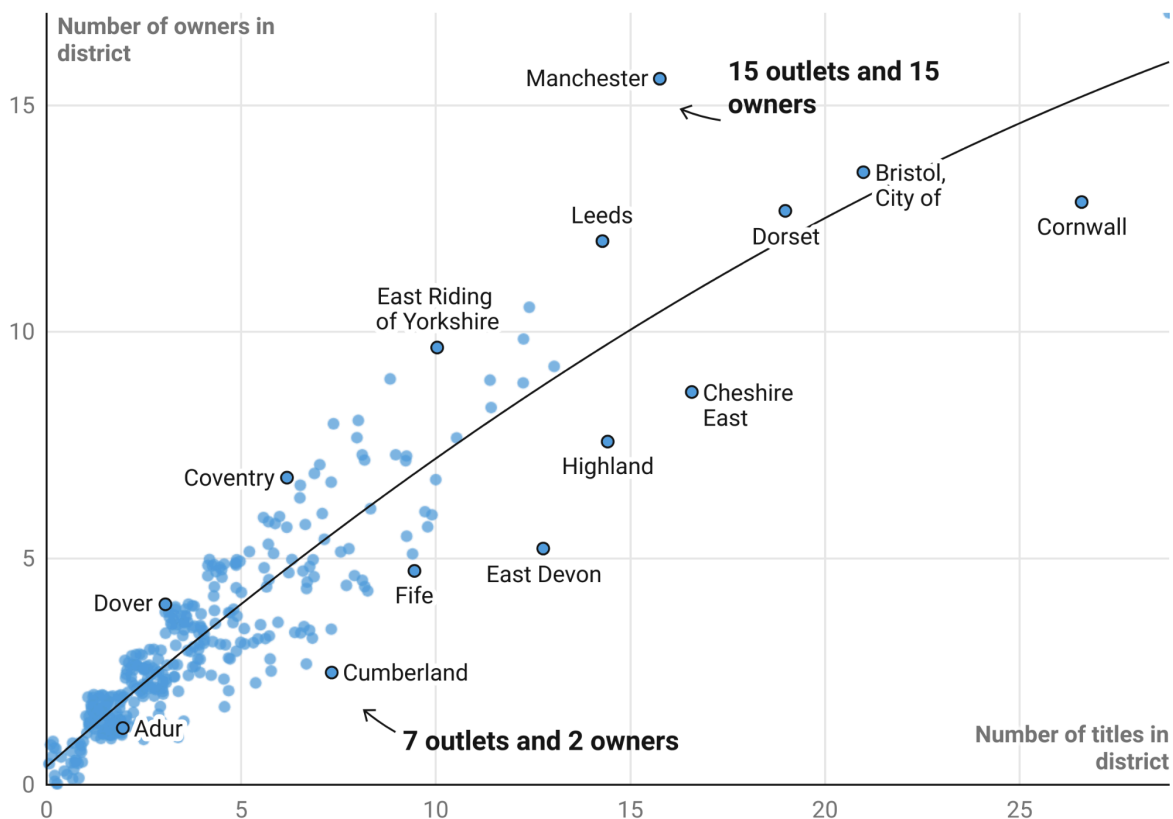


### Number of outlets per district



## Owner diversity

Finally, we looked at how districts are distributed in terms of number of owners and outlets. Normally, as the number of outlets increases so does the number of owners, however there are districts with substantially higher or lower owner diversity. For example, people living in Cumberland can access news from seven distinct outlets, yet these belong to solely two owners. Similarly, Fife, East Devon, Cheshire East all have low owner diversity. On the opposite end we find Manchester and Leeds, which have an exceptionally high number of owners relative to the number of outlets.



Data points have been slightly moved around to prevent overlap, making it easier to see individual points while preserving the overall distribution.



## News Deserts

In 2023, we noted 38 Local Authority Districts were news deserts, which we defined as areas lacking a dedicated local news outlet. In this report, we instead differentiate between districts without any outlets at all ('absolute' news deserts), and districts which receive some coverage but from an outlet which covers more than one district ('relative' news deserts). Altogether, the **number of news deserts in April 2024 remains stable at 38, although the list of districts has changed due to closures and launches.**

**This means that 4.7 million people in the UK live in a news desert, corresponding to 7% of the country's population.** Of these, 3,286,693 people live in absolute news deserts, one of 28 districts where there is no coverage from a local news outlet at all. All of these are in England, except East Dunbartonshire in Scotland. Lewisham and Gateshead are the two most populous news deserts.

Absolute news deserts		
	Local Authority	Population
England	Blaby	103,271
	Bolsover	80,476
	Bracknell Forest	125,174
	Bridgend	145,760
	Broadland	132,247
	Broxbourne	99,138
	Castle Point	89,708
	Chesterfield	103,672
	Crawley	118,580
	Dartford	116,777
	Elmbridge	139,369
	Fareham	114,993
	Gateshead	196,154
	Hart	100,293
	Hyndburn	82,261
	Knowsley	154,974
	Lewisham	299,810
	North East Derbyshire	102,315
	Nuneaton and Bedworth	134,291
	Oadby and Wigston	57,753
	Rochford	86,186
	South Derbyshire	108,063
	South Staffordshire	110,793
	Spelthorne	102,995
	Surrey Heath	90,645
	Tandridge	88,143
	Three Rivers	93,952
Scotland	East Dunbartonshire	108,900

Another 1,364,305 people live in one of ten relative news deserts – they lack a dedicated outlet, but can access news from a local outlet serving two, three or four five districts in total – corresponding to 2% of the population of the UK. Most of these live in England, and none live in Northern Ireland or Scotland. The largest relative news deserts are Sutton and Rushcliffe, followed by Newport in Wales.

Relative news deserts		
	Local Authority	Population
England	East Cambridgeshire	91,125
	Cotswold	88,145
	Hertsmere	108,105
	Rushcliffe	209,151
	Stevenage	119,438
	North Tyneside	147,915
	South Tyneside	89,320
	Sutton	209,517
Wales	Neath Port Talbot	141,931
	Newport	159,658

### News Oases

The best-served districts across the country, in terms of number of outlets, are all located in the South West: Somerset, Cornwall, and Bristol. The Scottish districts of Highland and Glasgow also rank highly in terms of number of outlets. Finally, large cities such as Manchester and Leeds are also relatively well-served.

By number of outlets per district	
Local Authority	Number of outlets
Somerset	28
Cornwall	26
Bristol, City of	20
Dorset	18
Cheshire East	16
Manchester	15
Highland	14
Leeds	14
Glasgow City	13
East Devon	12

When adjusted for population, the Isles of Scilly, the City of London, Argyll and Bute, and the Orkney Islands can be identified as news oases. The Isles of Scilly and City of London achieve this with only one outlet covering each district due to their small population sizes. Argyll and Bute, and East Devon, however, have more normal populations and stand out as the outlet-per-100,000-people ratio remains high thanks to the presence of a high number of outlets.

Adjusted by population (as shown in map above)		
Local Authority	Number of outlets	Outlets per 100,000 people
Isles of Scilly	1	44.03
City of London	1	11.60
Argyll and Bute	9	10.44
Orkney Islands	2	8.87
Shetland Islands	2	8.72
East Devon	12	7.89
Rutland	3	7.25
West Devon	4	6.96
Forest of Dean	6	6.89
South Hams	6	6.73
Monmouthshire	6	6.44
Moray	6	6.22
Blaenau Gwent	4	5.97
Highland	14	5.88
Melton	3	5.79
Worcester	6	5.79
Bath and North East Somerset	11	5.72
Ceredigion	4	5.66
Pembrokeshire	7	5.66
Norwich	8	5.59

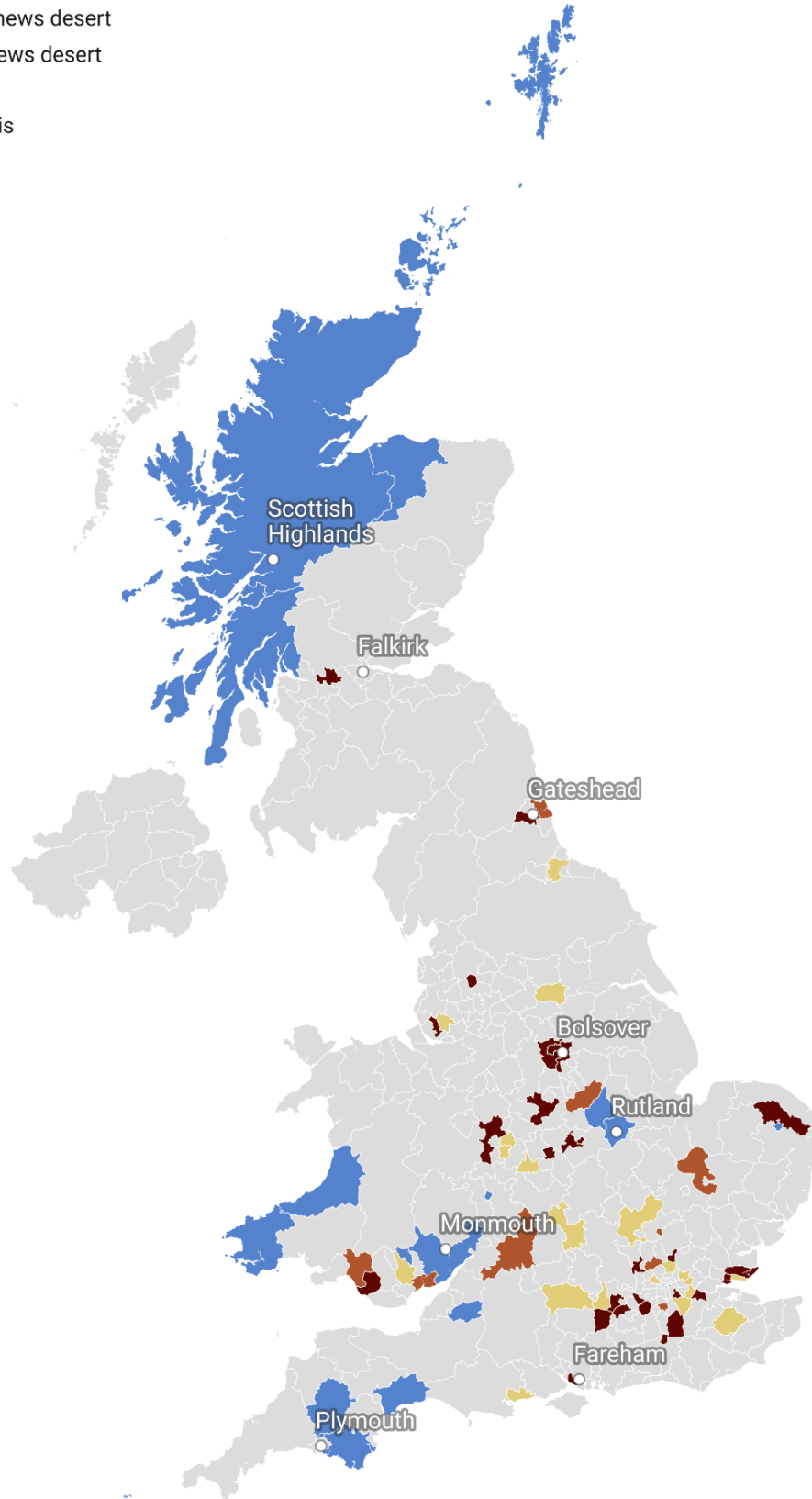
## Drylands

Finally, we identify 'news drylands'. These are areas that are not news deserts, yet are the next most poorly served in terms of outlets per 100,000 people. They include Wakefield, Brent, Bromley, Redbridge, and Central Bedfordshire. The most populous district among the drylands is Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, followed by Wakefield.

Local Authority District	Outlets per 100,000 people	Population
Wakefield	0.28	353,802
Brent	0.30	338,918
Bromley	0.30	329,830
Redbridge	0.32	309,836
Central Bedfordshire	0.34	295,541
Walsall	0.35	284,306
Bexley	0.41	246,543
Barking and Dagenham	0.46	218,534
Solihull	0.46	216,666
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	0.50	400,109
Stockton-on-Tees	0.51	197,030
St. Helens	0.55	183,391
Southend-on-Sea	0.55	180,601
Wokingham	0.56	178,169
Maidstone	0.57	176,712
Caerphilly	0.57	176,005
Sandwell	0.59	341,729
Enfield	0.61	329,601
West Berkshire	0.62	161,865
Cherwell	0.62	161,837

### News Deserts, Drylands, and Oases

- Absolute news desert
- Relative news desert
- Drylands
- News oasis

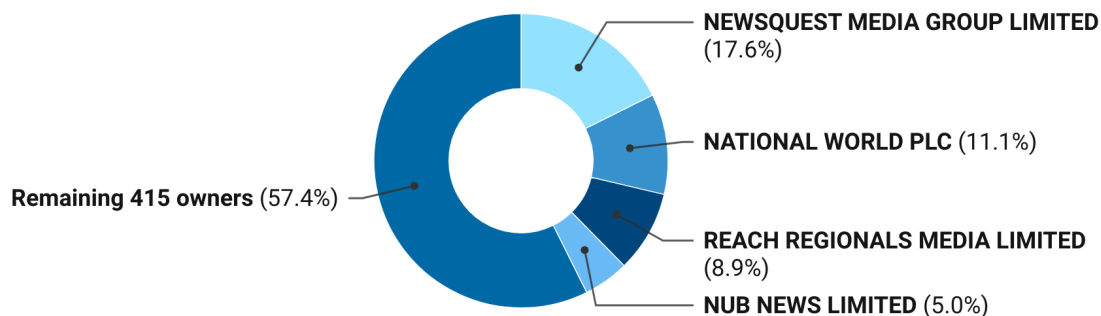


News oases are here marked as the 20 best served areas in terms of outlets per 100,000 people.

## 2.4 Ownership

The local news market is highly concentrated, with 37.6% of outlets owned by just three companies: Newsquest, National World, and Reach<sup>4</sup>. While Reach closed some of its websites at the end of 2023, National World has expanded through the purchase of Midland News Association<sup>5</sup> in September 2023, which in the Media Reform Coalition 2023 report<sup>6</sup> ranked 8th in terms of publisher size among print-digital outlets.

**Local News Sector Market Share by Owner**



Newsquest is the largest company both in terms of number of outlets (201) and in terms of number of covered Local Authority Districts (138). It also has the largest number of monopolies: 24 districts in which, through either one publication or several, it is the only publisher present.

National World and Reach cover the same number of districts (85 each), however National World has more outlets and more monopolies (see

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<sup>4</sup> Such a concentration of ownership in local news has been noted before, with the Media Reform Coalition reporting that 57% of the print and digital sector owned by the big three. The 20pc point difference is that we include radio.

<sup>5</sup> <https://pressgazette.co.uk/the-wire/media-mergers-news-tracker/national-world-midland-news-association/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.mediareform.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Who-Owns-the-UK-Media-2023.pdf>

table below). This suggests that Reach outlets tend to cover more districts on average.

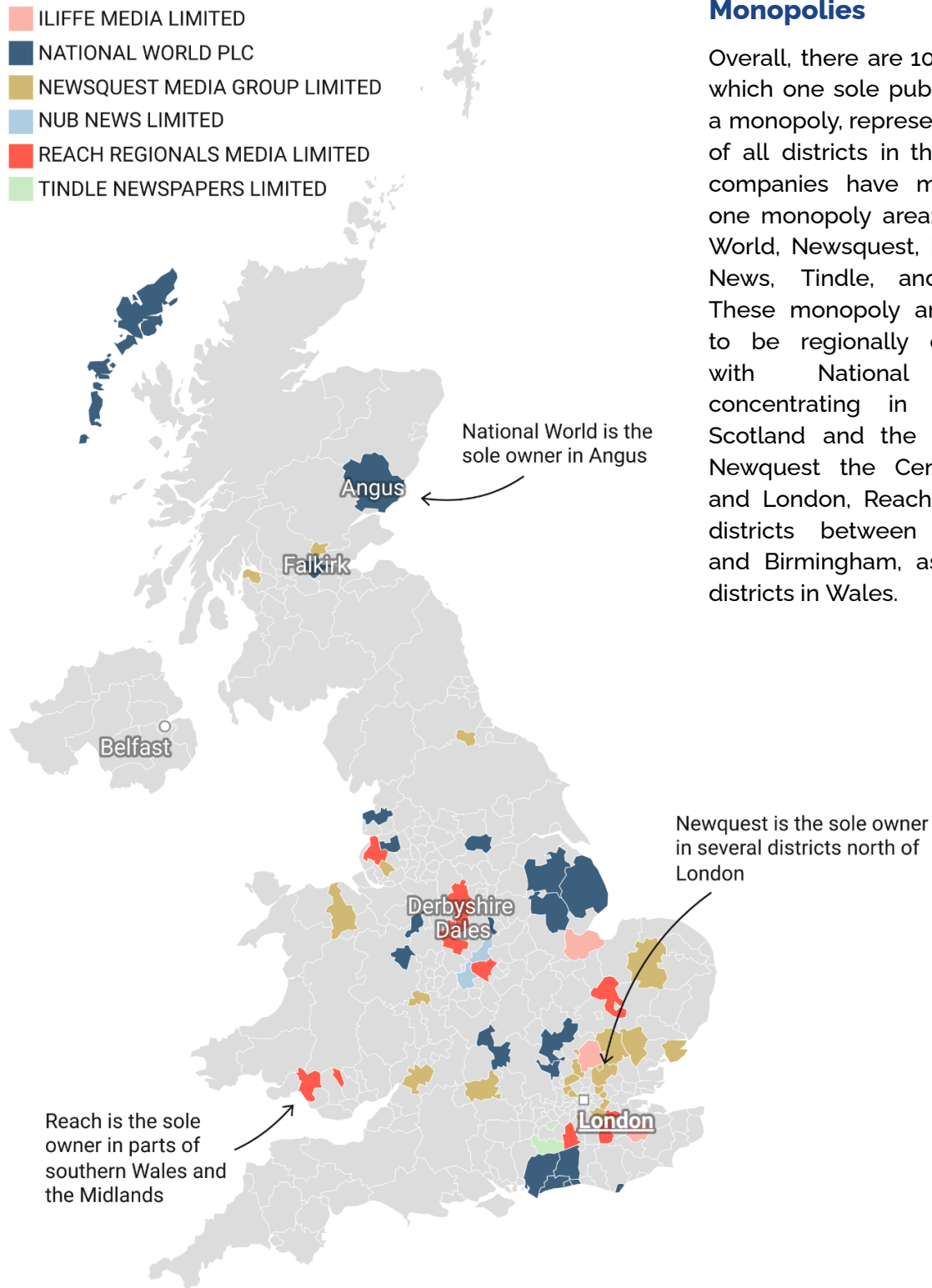
These figures also show that, with the exception of the BBC, it is common for one publisher to own several outlets in the same district. For example, Highland News and Media covers three districts with fifteen outlets, which, given the size of the Highland region, is understandable.

Finally, the BBC, despite covering a relatively large number of districts through its radio stations, does not have a monopoly on a single district, suggesting it exists alongside corporate and independent publishers in already covered areas.

Publisher	Number of outlets	Number of LADs	Number of monopolies	Monopolies
Newsquest Media Group Limited	201	138	24	Brent; Bromley; Redbridge; Bexley; Barking and Dagenham; Harrow; Sutton; Inverclyde; Wyre Forest; Clackmannanshire; Hertsmere; Stevenage; Vale of White Horse; Welwyn Hatfield; Denbighshire; Darlington
National World Plc	126	85	21	Wakefield; Central Bedfordshire; Falkirk; Angus; Broxtowe; Na h-Eileanan Siar; Cherwell; Dacorum; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Telford and Wrekin
Reach Regionals Media Limited	102	85	9	Neath Port Talbot; Hinckley and Bosworth; Merthyr Tydfil; East Staffordshire; Derbyshire Dales
Nub News Limited	57	33	2	North West Leicestershire
Tindle Newspapers Limited	45	18	2	
Iliffe Media Limited	26	20	3	East Hertfordshire
BBC	23	30	0	
Highland News And Media Limited	15	3	0	
Bullivant News Corporation Limited	11	10	1	Solihull
Alpha Newspapers Limited	11	7	0	

### Owners with more than one monopoly

- ILIFFE MEDIA LIMITED
- NATIONAL WORLD PLC
- NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED
- NUB NEWS LIMITED
- REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED
- TINDLE NEWSPAPERS LIMITED



### Monopolies

Overall, there are 101 LADs in which one sole publisher has a monopoly, representing 28% of all districts in the UK. Six companies have more than one monopoly area: National World, Newsquest, Iliffe, Nub News, Tindle, and Reach. These monopoly areas tend to be regionally clustered, with National World concentrating in parts of Scotland and the Midlands, Newsquest the Central Belt and London, Reach covering districts between Sheffield and Birmingham, as well as districts in Wales.



# 3. Automations

**This section describes the five automations that highlight potential issues with the dataset, and the automated analysis that helps us make sense of the data.**

## Why automate?

In the absence of any automations, the work of maintaining the dataset powering the map is time-consuming and complicated. It consists of looking up each outlet in the local news landscape to verify that it is still operative and is still owned by the same publisher. This means manually checking over 1,600 individual outlets. On top of these searches, we need to add the research required to discover any newly launched outlets. And finally, we have to check whether Local Authority Districts have evolved over time and, if so, which outlets need updating.

The challenges associated with researching the local media landscape extend beyond the sheer volume of information available. One issue is the lack of easily retrievable and interpretable data regarding changes in the operational status of local media outlets. For instance, mergers among multiple outlets to form a regional

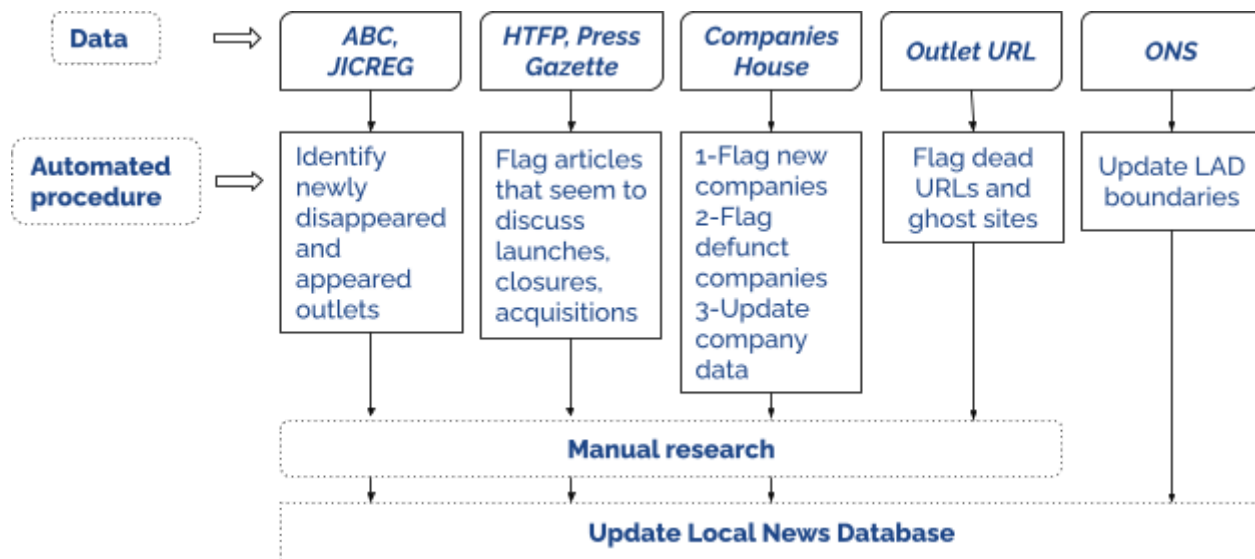
publication, a trend in recent years, often occur without significant attention from industry observers. Moreover, publishers themselves may present or report such changes inconsistently, further complicating efforts to track them. Furthermore, many media outlets cease operations without notifying the industry press or officially declaring closure on their websites or social media accounts. These factors contribute to the complexity and scale of the research process.

Fortunately, there are ways to facilitate the retrieval of relevant information about local news outlets, thanks to publicly available resources that gather and update information about media outlets or their publishers. These resources make it possible to create a 'pipeline' of automations to facilitate easier and more regular maintenance of the database.

## 3.1 Maintaining the Database

The resources leveraged in our pipeline and the ways these are used are outlined here:

- 1.** Data from circulation auditors ABC and JICREG, which are released on an approximately yearly basis, are collected in their two latest editions and compared, to flag to the researcher any new appearances in the datasets or any recent disappearances.
- 2.** News articles from industry press HoldTheFrontPage (HTFP) and Press Gazette are automatically collected and flagged if it appears that they discuss an outlet closure, launch, sale, or an acquisition of a publisher by another publisher. This is achieved by using a combination of keyword search and content review through a Large-Language Model (LLM).
- 3.** Company information from the UK Government's Companies House is retrieved through an API to: a) flag new media companies in relevant domains (TV, Radio, and Newspaper publishing); b) extract and update company information such as address, company type, and company status; and c) flag to the researcher any company which has entered liquidation or been dissolved.
- 4.** The URL of each media outlet, where present, is checked to see if it is operational, based on the response code from the URL visit (e.g., 404 indicates some level of failure in the website). Additionally, the homepage is crawled at two separate instances and compared: websites that have not changed over time are flagged to the researcher as potential "ghost" websites, outlets with low levels of activity due to potential closure.
- 5.** The geographic coverage area (the closest Local Authority District (LAD)) associated with each outlet is checked using a script against the latest (December 2023) LAD boundaries, supplied by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Thereafter, using their 2022 to 2023 LAD mapper dataset the outlets associated with a changing LAD were automatically updated.



At present, only the retrieval of news articles from industry press runs completely independently, based on a daily scheduler that initiates the code behind the procedure. All other operations are triggered by the data scientist, but could also run on schedulers in the future, with the caveat that for ABC/JICREG and for ONS the researcher must first manually download the latest applicable dataset. All other procedures do not require any manual data collection for operating.

Each of these procedures terminates with the scripts automatically uploading the data analysed and processed to Google Sheets, in dedicated research sheets that live next to the main dataset powering the Local News Map. These research sheets are available to the research team for review and manual implementation of any required

update to the data in the main database based on the findings. This pipeline, which combines computational processes with human oversight, allows for constant editorial control of the data.

Automation	Flagged	Observations changed
JICREG/ABC	35	10
Press Gazette / HTFP	47	9
Companies House	84 (65 newly created, four under liquidation, and 15 dissolved)	20 (one newly created, all liquidations and dissolutions)
Dead URL/Ghost site	375 (123/252)	78 (55/23)
LAD boundaries check	53	53

## 3.2 Analysing the Data

The interactive map in itself is a useful tool to navigate the local news sector and answer questions that individual users might have: which outlets exist in a particular geography? Are publishers and their newsrooms (if a newsroom exists) located near the targeted geographic space of the media outlet?

But the map does not provide an analysis of the sector as a whole. Last year, PINF published [Deserts, Oases and Drylands](#), a report that processed the data to generate insights about the local news landscape. Some of the questions addressed in the report include: are there news deserts in the UK? Which are the best-served areas, or “news oases”? We decided to automate the production of statistics pertinent to these questions, and more. Particularly, we identified three levels from which the industry can be assessed:

**1. National level.** This is a macro-level analysis on the properties of the industry. During each wave of research, we calculate:

- number of active and inactive outlets
- number of publishers (active outlets)
- number and name of launches and closures since last research wave

(and name and number of any outlets removed for reasons other than closure), and which LADs are impacted by these changes

- mean, median, standard deviation in terms of number of outlets and publishers per LAD
- number of monopolies and news deserts

**2. Local Authority District level** (or geographic level). This analysis produces statistics with relevance to each district. For each LAD, we collect:

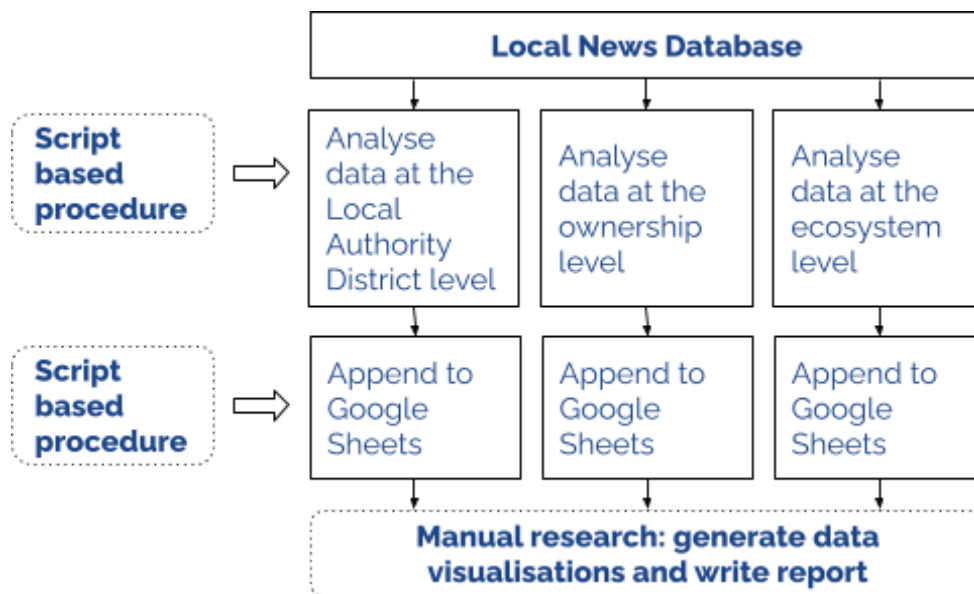
- number of outlets
- number of publishers
- whether the LAD has an outlet(s) owner with a monopoly
- outlets / LAD population ratio
- whether the LAD is a news desert or news oasis

**3. Ownership level.** This analysis looks at ownership across the industry (similarly to the approach of the Media Reform Coalition). For each owner, we track:

- market share of publisher
- number and name of active outlets, as well as ceased outlets
- number and name of LADs in which publisher is present

- number and name of monopolies, if any
- company data, including registered address, jurisdiction, date of creation, company type, and more

For each of these analyses we have built automations to process the map data and generate a results spreadsheet that is then uploaded to Google



Sheets. To better track the data over time, the system appends the new data to the bottom of each dedicated sheet alongside a time tag, enabling historical tracking of the state of the industry following each research wave.

# 4. Conclusion

**PINF sees this UK Local News Mapping Report as a significant step forward from the pilot work achieved in 2023. But the number of local news outlets is still only a proxy for measuring the provision of local public interest news - there is much more we could do. We invite comments, partnerships and funding to push the project forward.**

Originally inspired by the State of Local News project in the USA, and the Australian News Mapping Project, PINF's 2023 pilot mapping project helped throw a light on inequalities in news provision across the UK. It was only a pilot, but there was enough interest in the data and its analysis to justify PINF committing some unfunded time to keep the database lightly updated and to plan for a more consistent and accurate version.

A small grant fund received in March 2024 from DCMS made possible a range of automations, improved visualisation and this new analysis. The automations, and a more systematised dataset in particular, has moved the pilot forward in a significant way. The data and the visualisation it powers are now more accurate, more consistent, more up-to-date and more easily updated. So **what next?**

This data is still a proxy for what we truly care about: does everyone in the UK have access to quality public interest news that speaks to them, for them and with them? We assume that local public interest news is an important part of the answer, and so we have mapped outlets as the best proxy for this. Ideally, however, we would investigate the quality, quantity and locality of content and analyse whether it meets the definition of local public interest news. Furthermore, we might seek to understand the public perception of that news: do they believe they are getting the news they need?

Through our work on the pilot mapping, the significant update this project brings, and external feedback and examples, PINF has begun to sketch an idea that could see local authorities given a Local News Score. This could be based on a range of metrics capturing those elements mentioned above. The listing of those scores could then create a Local News Index and a deep understanding of inequalities in access to information around the UK.

Mapping local public interest news is a significant research project, and we welcome comments and ideas, potential partnerships and, of course, the resources to make it happen, ideally over a sustained period of time so that we can see shifts that are occurring in the long term.

The Local News Map, as it stands, remains our best effort and our best understanding of the state of local public interest news in the UK.

# 5. Appendix

## 5.1 Data

We have made the data behind this report openly available at the following Google Sheet:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WGcDIYan4tOoADr7pG\\_jhTlySFczYYYv9Pbea4Rtk94/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WGcDIYan4tOoADr7pG_jhTlySFczYYYv9Pbea4Rtk94/edit?usp=sharing)

## 5.2 Definitions

### Local news outlet

There is no statutory definition of a local news outlet. In developing a definition for the local news map, PINF was guided by an advisory group that included media mapping experts from both Australia's Public Interest Journalism Initiative and the US State of Local News project, among others. To be included in the local news map, outlets must:

- Be **legally incorporated** (i.e. a registered company, charity or society)
- Have a **principal purpose of the provision of local news**; and,
- Be **recently updated** (having published an article within the past month).

The project would have required significantly greater resources to include unincorporated local news outlets, such as Facebook pages, WhatsApp groups, printed flyers and so on - a mapping almost impossible to complete.

The 'principal purpose' test was a subjective one – it is impossible to know for certain the purpose of a publisher – we erred on the side of inclusiveness.

The criteria above were used for the 2023 report. We use those criteria again and **make a significant addition for this 2024 report: an outlet must be local, according to a systematised approach**. This question was previously left to the individual researcher's view. For this report, we begin by including all outlets that serve an area bordered by a local authority district (LAD), as is the majority of outlets. That is, those outlets



serve one district or an area within it. There are around 100 outlets in our original database that serve an area that is made up of more than one district. We had to have a cut-off threshold for those outlets at which point they would no longer be considered local. We have set that threshold at four districts, an approximate median value of the number of districts covered by those 100 titles. Thus outlets that cover four or fewer districts are still included in the map, whereas those that cover five or more are now excluded as non-local. With greater resources, we could produce a separate regional news map - or add another layer of data to the visualisation. Some 47 outlets in our master database ended up being excluded from the map as too broad, while 30 were already excluded from the map due to not matching any particular LAD, and 17 have been newly removed. We welcome comments and ideas on how to determine the local or regional divide.

PINF's definition of an independent outlet is whether that outlet has a revenue below £2m, a benchmark we have used for the last three years of our Index of Independent News Publishing.

### **News deserts**

Feedback on last year's report has led us to define two types of news deserts: absolute and relative.

An **absolute news desert** is a local authority district (LAD) that is covered by zero local news outlets, noting our criterion for local, above.

A **relative news desert** is a LAD that lacks a dedicated local news outlet, that is, an outlet that solely serves that LAD or a smaller area within it, but is at least covered by another local news outlet, again noting our criterion for local, above.

### **Coverage area**

Each outlet has been linked to its claimed coverage area in the form of one or several Local Authority Districts, by means of checking the outlet's title and information on the outlet's website.

## 5.3 List of Changes

Below is a detailed overview of all instances where some change in the main dataset was made in this iteration of updates to the database and the map (a few ones are ongoing - that is, the researcher is awaiting to hear back from the outlet to confirm information). The table below also includes instances that required some change but were found by the researcher separately from the automations. The table notes if the change stemmed from any of the automations. On a final note, please be aware that not all of these changes have implications for the map, as some outlets exist in the main dataset but are excluded from the map due to not fulfilling the criteria set by PINF for mapping (e.g., belonging to a registered company). That is why, for example, there are more than thirty observations under Type 'Closure', while only eighteen have been reported in the chapters above: not all of these were relevant, but they have been recorded nonetheless.

Name	Type	ABC JICREG	HTFP PG	CH	URL - site	LAD	Name	Type	ABC JICREG	HTFP PG	CH	URL - site	LAD
Sittingbourne News Extra	Added owner						Yorkshire Gazette & Herald	LAD boundary update					x
Telford Journal	Added owner and address						Ross Gazette	LAD change					
Bedford Borough Bulletin	Addition				x		Blackpool Lead	Launch		x			
Beds Bulletin	Addition				x		Glasgow Wrap	Launch		x			
Manchester World	Change in address		x				Manchester South Post	Launch				x	
Chronicle and Informer	Change in URL, LAD, and more	x					Stockport Post	Launch				x	
Meon Valley Times	Changed title and owner			x			The QT	Launch		x			
Anqus Country Press	Closure						Lichfield Live	Medium change		x			
Basingstoke Observer	Closure				x		Arbroath Herald	Medium change	x				
Bedworth Nub News	Closure				x		Dumbarton & Vale of Leven Reporter	Medium change	x				
Bourne Local	Closure	x					Irvine Times	Medium change	x				
Brighton & Hove Independent	Closure	x			x		COMMUNITY BROADCAST INITIATIVE TYNESIDE LTD	Ongoing research			x		
Bude & Beyond	Closure				x		Cornish Stuff (CORNISH STUFF LTD)	Ongoing research			x		
Causeway Coast Community News	Closure				x		HERALD NEWS (UK) LIMITED	Ongoing research			x		
Charlton Champion	Closure				x		Jesmond Local	Ongoing research				x	
Cheadle & Tean Times	Closure				x		NOT REALLY HERE GROUP LIMITED	Ongoing research			x		
Cheadle Post	Closure				x		The Horrabridge Times	Ongoing research				x	
Crowborough Life	Closure				x		Times of Tonbridge	Ongoing research				x	
Dawlish Post	Closure				x		Tyrone I	Ongoing research				x	
Didsbury Post	Closure						Your Local Paper	Ongoing research			x	x	
East Grinstead Courier	Closure	x					City Matters	Ownership change			x		
Leek and Moorlands Echo	Closure				x		Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser	Ownership change			x		
Leyland Guardian	Closure	x					All Midland News Association outlets (Bridgnorth Journal, Chronicle Week, Express and Star (Wolverhampton), Newport Advertiser, Shrewsbury Chronicle, Shropshire Star, South Shropshire Journal)	Ownership change		x			
Llandudno Nub News	Closure				x		Dearne Valley Weekender	Ownership change	x				
Llanelli Herald	Closure			x			Made in Bristol	Ownership change			x	x	
Love Wapping	Closure				x		Newry Reporter	Ownership change	x				
Lyme Online	Closure				x		Rotherham Advertiser	Ownership change	x				
Purbeck Coast FM (Swanage, Dorset)	Closure				x		The Galloway Gazette	Ownership change				x	
South Worcester Voice	Closure				x		SOUTH BRISTOL VOICE LTD	Ownership change			x		
Sunday Independent	Closure			x	x		SOUTHWARK NEWS LTD	Ownership change			x		
The Camberwell Clarion	Closure				x		EDWARD HODGETT LIMITED	Ownership change			x		
The Examiner	Closure				x		GCC MEDIA LIMITED	Typo in OWNER			x		
The Thornton Heath Chronicle	Closure				x		Annandale Herald	Updated URL				x	
Uttoxeter Echo	Closure				x		Annandale Observer	Updated URL				x	
Yarmouth Advertiser	Closure	x					BBC Radio Cambridgeshire	Updated URL				x	
Chorlton Post	Closure				x		BBC Radio Devon	Updated URL				x	
Bramhall Post	Closure				x		BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester	Updated URL				x	

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Heatons Post	Closure				x		Bexhill Observer	Updated URL					x
My Soho Times	Closure			x			Bodmin Voice	Updated URL					x
Takeover Radio (Leicester)	Closure			x	x		Boston Standard	Updated URL					x
North Northants Journal	LAD and URL change				x		Bridlington Free Press	Updated URL					x
Dungannon Herald	LAD assignment					x	Birmingham TV	Updated URL					x
Kentish Gazette Group	LAD assignment					x	Bristol 24/7	Updated URL					x
Londonderry Sentinel	LAD assignment					x	Buchan Observer	Updated URL					x
Somerset County Gazette	LAD assignment					x	Bucks Herald	Updated URL					x
Somerset Guardian (Mid Somerset Series)	LAD assignment					x	Burgess Hill	Updated URL					x
Southern Daily Echo	LAD assignment					x	Cardiff TV	Updated URL					x
Strathallan Times	LAD assignment					x	Carluke Gazette	Updated URL					x
Strathspey & Badenoch Herald	LAD assignment					x	Carrick Times	Updated URL					x
Tenby Observer	LAD assignment					x	Ceredigion Herald	Updated URL					x
The County Down Outlook	LAD assignment					x	Coleraine Times	Updated URL					x
The Cumberland News / The News and Star	LAD assignment					x	Crawley Observer	Updated URL					x
10 Radio (Wiveliscombe)	LAD boundary update					x	Cumbernauld FM (Cumbernauld)	Updated URL					x
Apple FM (Taunton, Somerset)	LAD boundary update					x	Dawlish Gazette	Updated URL					x
BBC Radio Somerset	LAD boundary update					x	Down FM (Downpatrick, N. Ireland)	Updated URL					x
Bridgwater Mercury	LAD boundary update					x	Dundee Evening Telegraph	Updated URL					x
Burnham and Highbridge Weekly News	LAD boundary update					x	East Devon Radio (Exmouth, Devon)	Updated URL					x
Cando FM (Barrow-in-Furness)	LAD boundary update					x	Eastbourne Herald and Gazette	Updated URL and changed LAD					x
Central Somerset Gazette	LAD boundary update					x	Eastwood and Kimberley Advertiser	Updated URL					x
Chard & Ilminster News	LAD boundary update					x	Fraserburgh Herald	Updated URL					x
Cheddar Nub News	LAD boundary update					x	Gainsborough Standard	Updated URL					x
Cheddar Valley Gazette	LAD boundary update					x	Gosport & Fareham Globe	Updated URL					x
Coast and County Radio (Scarborough Town and Whitby)	LAD boundary update					x	Grange Now	Updated URL					x
Craven Herald & Pioneer	LAD boundary update					x	Grangetown Cardiff	Updated URL					x
Cumberland & Westmorland Herald	LAD boundary update					x	Gurn from the Nurn	Updated URL					x
Cumberland and Westmorland Gazette	LAD boundary update					x	Horncastle News	Updated URL					x
Cumbria Crack	LAD boundary update					x	Kenilworth Weekly News	Updated URL					x
Digital Hits One (Cheddar, North Somerset)	LAD boundary update					x	Larne Times	Updated URL					x
Easingwold Advertiser	LAD boundary update					x	Leamington Spa Courier	Updated URL					x
Eden FM (Penrith)	LAD boundary update					x	Leeds TV	Updated URL					x
Frome FM (Frome)	LAD boundary update					x	Linlithgow Journal & Gazette	Updated URL					x
Frome Nub News	LAD boundary update					x	Littlehampton Gazette	Updated URL					x
Frome Times	LAD boundary update					x	Liverpool TV	Updated URL					x
Glastonbury FM (Glastonbury & Street)	LAD boundary update					x	Londonderry Sentinel	Updated URL					x
Glastonbury Nub News	LAD boundary update					x	Louth Leader	Updated URL					x
Grange Now	LAD boundary update					x	Lurgan Mail	Updated URL					x
Harrogate Advertiser	LAD boundary update					x	Margate Mercury	Updated URL					x
Ilkley Gazette	LAD boundary update					x	Matlock Mercury	Updated URL					x
In Cumbria	LAD boundary update					x	Mid Sussex Times	Updated URL					x
Keswick Reminder	LAD boundary update					x	Mid Ulster Mail	Updated URL					x
Levellor (Somerset)	LAD boundary update					x	Midlothian Advertiser	Updated URL					x
Mail, The (Cumbria)	LAD boundary update					x	Motherwell Times	Updated URL					x
News & Star - Carlisle	LAD boundary update					x	Newtownabbey Times	Updated URL					x
Ninesprings FM (Yeovil)	LAD boundary update					x	North Wales TV	Updated URL					x
Radio Scarborough (Scarborough)	LAD boundary update					x	Northumberland News Post Leader	Updated URL					x
Richmondshire Today	LAD boundary update					x	Princetown Times Gazette	Updated URL					x
Scarborough Evening News	LAD boundary update					x	Ramsgate Recorder	Updated URL					x
Sedgemoor FM (Bridgwater, Somerset)	LAD boundary update					x	Rugby Advertiser	Updated URL					x
Selby Times	LAD boundary update					x	Saltash Voice	Updated URL					x
Shepton Mallet Nub News	LAD boundary update					x	Sleaford Standard	Updated URL					x
Stour & Avon Magazine	LAD boundary update					x	St Austell Voice	Updated URL					x
The Stray Ferret	LAD boundary update					x	Strabane Chronicle	Updated URL					x
Thirsk Weekly News	LAD boundary update					x	Teesside TV	Updated URL					x
Times & Star (West Cumberland)	LAD boundary update					x	The Broadstairs Beacon	Updated URL					x
Tone FM (Taunton, Somerset)	LAD boundary update					x	The Hull Story	Updated URL					x
Wellington Weekly News	LAD boundary update					x	The Mead	Updated URL					x
Wells Nub News	LAD boundary update					x	Tottenham Community Press / Harinquev Community Press	Updated URL					x
Wells Voice	LAD boundary update					x	Truro Voice	Updated URL					x
West Somerset Free Press	LAD boundary update					x	Tyne & Wear TV	Updated URL					x
West Somerset Radio (Minehead, Dunster, Carhampton, Blue Anchor and Alcombe)	LAD boundary update					x	Ulster Star	Updated URL					x
Westmorland Gazette	LAD boundary update					x	Warwick Courier	Updated URL					x
Whitehaven News	LAD boundary update					x	West Sussex Gazette	Updated URL					x
Yeovil Express	LAD boundary update					x	Wishaw Press	Updated URL					x
Galloway Gazette & Stranraer News, now only retained as The Galloway Gazette.	Duplicate Removal						Worthing Herald	Updated URL					x

## Large Regional Outlets Removal

Here is the full list of outlets which are excluded from the map due to being considered too broad. Some were previously already missing from the map due to storing a regional statistical code, rather than a LAD code. Some did previously feature on the map and have now been excluded (these are marked in the “Newly removed” column).

Name	Owner	Newly removed
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire	BBC	x
BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire	BBC	x
BBC Radio Devon	BBC	x
BBC Radio Essex	BBC	x
BBC Radio Gloucestershire	BBC	x
BBC Radio Kent	BBC	x
BBC Radio Lancashire	BBC	x
BBC Radio Lincolnshire	BBC	x
BBC Radio Merseyside	BBC	x
BBC Radio Norfolk	BBC	x
BBC Radio Suffolk	BBC	x
BBC Radio Surrey	BBC	x
BBC Radio Sussex	BBC	x
BBC WM	BBC	x
Central Bylines	BYLINES NETWORKS LIMITED	
East Anglia Bylines	BYLINES NETWORKS LIMITED	
Kent Bylines	BYLINES NETWORKS LIMITED	
North East Bylines	BYLINES NETWORKS LIMITED	
Sussex Bylines	BYLINES NETWORKS LIMITED	
Yorkshire Bylines	BYLINES NETWORKS LIMITED	
Suffolk News	ILIFFE MEDIA LIMITED	
North Wales TV	LOCAL TV LIMITED	x
South London Press	MSI MEDIA LIMITED	x
Chronicle Week	NATIONAL WORLD PLC	x
London World	NATIONAL WORLD PLC	
Sussex Express	NATIONAL WORLD PLC	
Network Norfolk	NETWORK NORWICH	x
Yellow Advertiser (Online Only)	NEWSHOUND MEDIA LTD	
North Wales Chronicle	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	x
North Wales Pioneer	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	x
North West Evening Mail (The Mail)	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	x
Docklands & East London Advertiser	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	
East Anglian Daily Times	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	
Surrey Comet	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	
This is Local London	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	
This Is Oxfordshire	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	
Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard	NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP LIMITED	
On London	ON LONDON PUBLISHING LTD	
Yorkshire Reporter	PICK UP PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION LIMITED	
Asian Standard North-East	R F MEDIA & PUBLISHING LTD	
Asian Standard North-East	R F MEDIA & PUBLISHING LTD	
Essex Chronicle	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	x
North Wales Daily Post	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	x
North Wales Weekly News	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	x
Hertfordshire Mercury	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	
My London	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	
Surrey Advertiser	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	
Surrey Mirror	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	
Warwickshire Live	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	
Yorkshire Live	REACH REGIONALS MEDIA LIMITED	
So Derbyshire	SO COUNTIES LTD	

Name	Owner	Newly removed
So Staffordshire	SO COUNTIES LTD	
Sussex Local Magazine	SUSSEX LIVING LIMITED	
That's TV (Solent)	THAT'S TELEVISION LIMITED	x
That's TV (South Midlands)	THAT'S TELEVISION LIMITED	x
That's TV (Thames Valley)	THAT'S TELEVISION LIMITED	x
That's TV (West Anglia)	THAT'S TELEVISION LIMITED	x
That's TV Scotland (West)	THAT'S TELEVISION LIMITED	x
North.Wales	WREXHAM DOTCOM LIMITED	x
Warwickshire Telegraph		

## Interactive and additional charts

The figures presented in this report can also be viewed as interactive web charts. Here to follow are links to these charts:

- [Geographical distribution of owners with more than one monopoly](#)
- [Launches and closures](#)
- [Map: News deserts, oases, and drylands](#)
- [Map: number of outlets per Local Authority District in the UK](#)
- [Map: outlets per 100,000 people in London](#)
- [Map: outlets per 100,000 people in the UK](#)
- [Market shares by owner](#)
- [Media type](#)
- [Ownership Diversity](#)

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This updated report, database and visualisation are based on an original pilot study, which took place in 2023, for which we thank the JRSST Charitable Trust, Max Roche, and Common Knowledge. We also thank members of the advisory group to that pilot for guiding us as to our definition and approach, and to all those who pointed out mistakes or missing outlets since our first report was published.

The charts in this report were created with Datawrapper.

## About us

The Public Interest News Foundation is the UK's first charity to support public interest news – ethical and impartial journalism that informs and empowers the public about the things that matter to all of us.

We believe that everyone in the UK should benefit from public interest news that speaks to them, for them and with them.

We believe that independent news providers have a crucial role to play: in reaching communities that have been let down by other parts of the media; and in developing new, ethical models of journalism.

So our mission is to ensure the social and financial sustainability of independent news providers in communities across the UK.

[publicinterestnews.org.uk](https://publicinterestnews.org.uk)

