



Department for Education

2025-0020982

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
Minister for Skills**

Sarah Waddington CBE
Interim CEO
Public Relations and Communications Association
By email: sarah.waddington@prca.global

1 July 2025

Dear Ms Waddington,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 June, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding funding for communications and media courses. I am replying as the minister responsible for higher education (HE).

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns. Supporting the provision of high-quality public-interest journalism is a government priority. A free, sustainable, and diverse media landscape is the best way to maintain a shared understanding of facts, and we are committed to supporting the invaluable role that journalism plays in the fabric of our society.

At the same time, we have made tough prioritisation decisions, driven by the challenging fiscal context. We are protecting support for high-cost subjects that are essential to the industrial strategy's delivery, and core funding to support access to HE for disadvantaged groups. It is important that the targeted funding allocated through the Strategic Priorities Grant (SPG) supports courses with higher delivery costs, aligns with our Plan for Growth, and contributes to the Industrial Strategy.

This means that we are prioritising investment in science, engineering and technology subjects. Media studies, journalism, publishing, and information services are all important and valued subjects, and the government acknowledges their importance, alongside numerous other subjects that do not attract SPG high-cost subject funding, such as history, languages, economics, maths and law. It is worth noting that provision for these subjects will benefit from the increase in tuition fee limits in line with inflation. As a result, the maximum fee for a standard full-time undergraduate course in the 2025 to 2026 academic year will increase by 3.1%, from £9,250 to £9,535.

Thank you again for writing. I hope that this response is useful for you.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
Minister for Skills**