

LGF (S20) 21  
Bil Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru)  
Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill  
Ymateb gan: Y Cyngorydd Marc Jones  
Response from: Councillor Marc Jones

Dear members

As a journalist who has worked for local papers in Wales, I would like to support one element of the Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill, namely section 20.

This would end the statutory need to publish official statements in at least one local paper in the local area.

This is now nothing more than a back-door subsidy for newspaper companies. The overwhelming majority of newspapers in Wales are owned by huge international companies, which have destroyed local journalism and seen their print circulation also collapse.

With the growth in independent online journalism, the legislation needs to be amended to reflect a new situation.

There are better, cheaper and more effective ways to connect with local people.

I support amending the act.

Marc Jones

Member of the NUJ for 39 years