

Beehive News

Top Writers Report 2025



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Foreword

The past year has been one of the most demanding periods for journalism in recent history. Rapid shifts in power and alliances have been reshaping the global order and defining what the future of humanity may look like in ways that are not yet entirely clear. Armed conflict has continued in Europe, war in the Levant has reshaped regional and global diplomacy, and geopolitical instability has intensified through shifts in U.S. foreign policy, renewed tariff disputes, ethnically motivated killings in places like Sudan, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria, and the escalation of popular unrest in Iran. Luigi Mangione's trial and the killing of Charlie Kirk have contributed to a renewed sense of class struggle and of further erosion of the rule of law. Old divisions between East and West, authoritarianism and liberalism, have re-emerged, whilst political pressure and polarisation have deepened across many democratic societies.

In the United Kingdom, the news agenda has been largely shaped by the rise of the Reform Party, the launch of Jeremy Corbyn's Your Party, large-scale demonstrations of national pride such as those organised by Tommy Robinson, and mounting political pressure surrounding immigration, religion, tax and IDs. Across markets, political identities have hardened, public trust has become increasingly fragmented, and news consumption followed increasingly ideological lines.

As the world has become more polarised, so too has much of the news ecosystem. Narrative framing, selective emphasis, emotional charge, and identity-driven storytelling have played a growing role in how events are presented and interpreted.

The average score for *Bias & Fact base* fell by c. 5% in 2025 vs 2024, and the average score for *Context & Completeness* fell by c.7%. For readers, navigating this environment has become ever more complex.

Yet even in this context, responsible journalism has not disappeared. Across publications of different sizes, geographies, and editorial traditions, rigorous writers continued to produce work characterised by balanced framing, solid sourcing, clearly contextualised facts, and logically and transparently demonstrated links of causality. These writers exposed competing perspectives, distinguished evidence from opinion, and resisted the pressure to simplify complex realities into partisan or ideological narratives.

For readers seeking to navigate nuance and understand the bigger picture, this work acted as a beacon of clarity. By enabling informed interpretation rather than prescribing conclusions, it strengthened a core democratic prerogative: the ability of citizens to form their own views and make their own decisions.

The *Beehive News Top Writers Report 2025* is based on the systematic analysis of over half a million news articles written by circa fifteen thousand authors. As the only report in the world to use article-level evaluation at scale, it now seeks to recognise 59 selected professionals (the top 0.4%) who performed particularly well across our long list of assessment criteria. It is an acknowledgement of their civic impact in a year when clarity was harder to achieve – but perhaps more necessary than ever.



Methodology

This report is produced by Beehive News to assess the professional rigour of contemporary journalism through systematic, article-level analysis. Unlike outlet- or sample-based approaches, Beehive News evaluates individual news articles at scale, recognising that performance can vary within the same publication and author.

The analysis draws on a corpus of 589,504 news articles written or co-written by 14,700 individual writers and published across 17 major publications in the UK and the world.

Key aspects of the methodology are:

Uniform criteria and structural focus

The same assessment criteria are applied to all articles, regardless of political or ideological alignment. Evaluation focuses on structure and analytical framework rather than viewpoint – for example, an article may be penalised for failing to include different perspectives on a story, but not for what those specific perspectives are.

Core rating areas

Scores are primarily driven by two main areas - *Bias & fact base* and *Context & completeness* - with two secondary areas also assessed - *Headline framing* and *Quality of writing*.

- *Bias & fact base* evaluates source attribution, the presence of one-sided claims, emotional framing, the logical construction of arguments with facts, and whether causality is clearly demonstrated.
- *Context & completeness* assesses whether all relevant contextual elements are present, and whether facts and figures are properly contextualised through meaningful comparisons across peer groups, time periods, or relevant

baselines.

- *Headline framing* examines whether headlines accurately reflect the content of the article, avoid sensationalist or click-driven elements, and refrain from implying causality, responsibility, or guilt that is not supported by the reporting.
- *Quality of writing* evaluates language use, clarity, accessibility, and precision, including whether language remains proportionate and avoids unnecessary ambiguity.

Award categories.

For each news topic assessed, we selected the top-performing journalist overall – across all 4 areas - as well as the top-performing journalists in the *Bias & fact base* and *Context & completeness* categories. One news article can belong to more than one news topic.

Writer attribution and consistency

Writer performance is assessed across multiple articles using aggregated averages and score distributions, including lowest and highest results. Writers with frequent or significantly low-rated articles are not considered, even where averages might be high. Because we prioritise quality over volume, the minimum number of assessed articles that a writer needs to publish to be considered is three. This also means that not all writers hereby recognised are full-time journalists.

Selection for this report

The *Beehive News Top Writers Report 2025* recognises 59 writers whose work consistently performed at a high level across the assessment criteria. Selection exclusively reflects sustained analytical rigour rather than engagement, reach, or ideological alignment.

The Top Writers of 2025

Top Writers of the Year

Overall

Ignacio López-Goñi, *Professor at University of Navarra*
Ignacio is a microbiology professor and science communicator who writes about viruses, vaccines and science, being republished across major outlets.



Tedros A. Ghebreyesus, *Director-General of the WHO*
Tedros writes World Health Organisation opinion and policy pieces on health which are published via official channels and republished by global outlets.



Bias & Fact base

Alison Kershaw, *Journalist & Senior Editor at PA Media*
Former Law correspondent, Alison produced relevant work within the Public Policy topic, which has been reported and syndicated across the UK.



Kate Pickles, *Journalist & Health Editor at Daily Mail*
Kate reports on health, medical research and lifestyle science. Her stories are published on Daily Mail and MSN platforms in the UK&I, Asia and North America.



Context & Completeness

Monica Uszerowicz, *Freelance writer*
Based in the U.S, Monica writes cultural criticism, arts and entertainment features published by major outlets like The Guardian, Observer and VICE.



Soraya Amiri, *Journalists for Human Rights (JHR)*
Based in Canada, Soraya is a Contributing Writer to The Walrus through JHR, and writes on Afghanistan, women’s rights and human rights.



Top Writers by Topic

For each of the 15 news topics considered, we have selected 3 writers.¹ Each of those writers was the best-performing writer of 2025 in 1 of 3 scoring categories: *Overall*, *Bias & Fact Base*, or *Context & Completeness*.

Politics

Overall	Daniel Dunford	Sky News
Bias & fact base	Bill Mahoney	Politico
Context & completeness	Luke Mansillo	The Guardian

Public Policy

Overall	Joanna Hodgson	The Independent
Bias & fact base	Alison Kershaw	The Independent
Context & completeness	Michela Moscufo	The Guardian ²

Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs

Overall	Tamara Kovacevic	BBC
Bias & fact base	Ben Chu	BBC
Context & completeness	John Kampfner	The Guardian ³

War & Conflict

Overall	Richard Irvine-Brown	BBC
Bias & fact base	Jonathan Beale	BBC
Context & completeness	Max Hunder	Reuters

¹ Writers may have no formal or informal relationship with the listed publishers and may appear only as occasional contributors or via republication; ² Also considers 1 article by Al Jazeera, ³ Also considers 1 article by The Independent. **Source:** Beehive News

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Ethics & Humanity

Overall	Ruth Green	BBC
Bias & fact base	Lorena Allam	The Guardian
Context & completeness	Soraya Amiri	The Walrus

Gender & Sexuality

Overall	Megha Mohan	BBC
Bias & fact base	Mollie Malone	Sky News
Context & completeness	Josh Parry	BBC

Business & Economy

Overall	Patrick Commins	The Guardian
Bias & fact base	Hilary Osborne	The Guardian
Context & completeness	Jørn Madslien	BBC

Technology

Overall	Joe Fay	BBC
Bias & fact base	Marc Cieslak	BBC
Context & completeness	Sean McManus	BBC

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History

Overall	Darius von Guttner	The Independent
Bias & fact base	Ariel David	Haaretz
Context & completeness	George Charles Darley	Al Jazeera

Sciences

Overall	Laura Driessen	The Independent
Bias & fact base	Sophie Kevany	The Guardian
Context & completeness	Pallab Ghosh	BBC

Climate & Sustainability

Overall	Justin Rowlatt	BBC
Bias & fact base	Mark Hertsgaard	The Guardian
Context & completeness	Mac Margolis	The Guardian

Health

Overall	Ignacio López-Goñi	The Independent
Bias & fact base	Kate Pickles	Daily Mail
Context & completeness	James Gallagher	BBC

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Arts & Culture

Overall	Mark Hudson	The Independent
Bias & fact base	Rosamund Brennan	The Guardian
Context & completeness	Monica Uszerowicz	The Guardian

Food & Travel

Overall	Alexis Steinman	The Guardian
Bias & fact base	Jenny Kumah	BBC
Context & completeness	Scott McFetridge	The Independent

Sports

Overall	Daniel Austin	BBC
Bias & fact base	Emanuele Giulianelli	The Guardian
Context & completeness	Ryan Baldi	The Guardian

Daily events

Overall	Oscar Lopez	The Guardian
Bias & fact base	Claire Wang	The Guardian
Context & completeness	Cillian Sherlock	The Independent

¹ Writers may have no formal or informal relationship with the listed publishers and may appear only as occasional contributors or via republication. **Source:** Beehive News

Topic Definitions

In 2025, we have recognised writers across 16 news topics: *Politics, Public Policy, Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs, War & Conflict, Ethics & Humanity, Gender & Sexuality, Business & Economy, Technology, History, Sciences, Climate & Sustainability, Health, Arts & Culture, Food & Travel, Sports and Daily Events.*

Politics

Includes articles on politicians, political parties, government decisions, appointments, elections, corruption and political scandals.

Public Policy

Includes articles on infrastructure, immigration, housing, education, information management and regulations impacting everyday life.

Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs

Includes articles on interstate relations, bilateral and multilateral agreements, tariffs, economic disputes and sanctions.

War & Conflict

Includes articles on wars and armed conflict involving more than one country, as well as violent domestic unrest.

Ethics & Humanity

Includes articles on human rights, race and religion, as well ethically complex decisions such as euthanasia and abortion.

Gender & Sexuality

Includes articles on gender and sexual identity as concepts and in relation to rights, equity, legal protections and social recognition.

Business & Economy

Includes articles on economy, markets and industries, money, investment, corporate movements and relevant businessmen.

Technology

Includes articles on innovation, technological breakthroughs and AI, as well as those on gadgets and wearables.

Source: Beehive News

Topic Definitions

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History

Includes articles on past events, historical figures and societies, as well as archaeological discoveries and research.

Sciences

Includes articles on the natural sciences, covering all forms of life on Earth as well as research into the physical universe, including space.

Climate & Sustainability

Includes articles on climate change, environmental impact, and strategies to protect and sustain ecosystems and resources.

Health

Includes articles on medical findings, diseases, healthcare systems, fitness and nutrition, and as well mental and social health.

Arts & Culture

Covers all forms of artistic expression, including music, film and television, cinema, theatre, dance, painting, literature and fashion.

Food & Travel

Includes articles on food systems and consumption, culinary culture, and travel as lived experience (destinations, exploration and logistics)

Sports

Covers all forms of sport and athletic competition, both professional and amateur, including individual, team, and motor sports.

Daily events

Includes articles on everyday events and stories, such as disruptions, accidents, crime, celebrities, and consumer matters.

Source: Beehive News

Top Writers by Publisher

In 2025, we have selected 1 writer for each publication based on their *Overall* score,¹ including 5 traditional UK publishers, 8 international publishers across North America, Africa, West Asia, South Asia and East Asia, 3 academic publications and 1 fact checker.

UK Publishers

BBC	Ruth Green
Daily Mail	Kate Pickles
Sky News	Daniel Dunford
The Guardian	Sera Sefeti
The Independent	Ignacio López-Goñi

International Publishers

Al Jazeera • Qatar	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Daily Post • Nigeria	Chika Onyesi
Dawn • Pakistan	Amin Ahmed
Haaretz • Israel	Ariel David
Politico • USA	Bill Mahoney
Sixth Tone • China	Jiang Xinyi
The Hindu • India	Sreeparna Chakrabarty
The Walrus • Canada	Michelle Cyca

Academic Publications

Bath Time • University of Bath	Carina Olariu
OxStu • University of Oxford	Audrey Miu
Perspectives • University of Warwick	Charles Wawn

Fact Checkers

Full Fact	Sian Bayley
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List of Awarded Writers

Alexis Steinman	Page 10
Alison Kershaw	Pages 6 & 7
Amin Ahmed	Page 13
Anushe Engineer	Page 7
Ariel David	Pages 9 & 13
Audrey Miu	Page 13
Ben Chu	Page 7
Bill Mahoney	Pages 7 & 13
Carina Olariu	Page 13
Charles Wawn	Page 13
Chika Onyesa	Page 13
Claire Want	Page 10
Cillian Sherlock	Page 10
Daniel Austin	Page 10
Daniel Dunford	Pages 7 & 13
Darius von Guttner Sporzynski	Page 9
Emanuele Giulianelli	Page 10
George Charles Darley	Page 9
Hilary Osborne	Page 8
Ignacio López-Goñi	Pages 6, 9 & 13
James Gallagher	Page 9
Jenny Kumah	Page 10
Jiang Xinyi	Page 13
Joanna Hodgson	Page 7
Joe Fay	Page 8
John Kampfner	Page 7

Source: Beehive News

List of Awarded Writers

Jonathan Beale	Page 7
Jørn Madslien	Page 8
Josh Parry	Page 8
Justin Rowlatt	Page 9
Kate Pickles	Pages 6, 9 & 13
Laura Driessen	Page 9
Lorena Allam	Page 8
Luke Mansillo	Page 7
Mac Margolis	Page 9
Marc Cieslak	Page 8
Mark Hertsgaard	Page 9
Mark Hudson	Page 10
Max Hunder	Page 7
Megha Mohan	Page 8
Michela Moscufo	Page 7
Michelle Cyca	Page 13
Mollie Malone	Page 8
Monica Uszerowicz	Pages 6 & 10
Oscar Lopez	Page 10
Pallab Ghosh	Page 9
Patrick Commins	Page 8
Richard Irvine-Brown	Page 7
Rosamund Brennan	Page 10
Ruth Green	Pages 8 & 13
Ryan Baldi	Page 10
Scott McFetridge	Page 10

Source: Beehive News

List of Awarded Writers

Sean McManus	Page 8
Sera Sefeti	Page 13
Sian Bayley	Page 13
Sophie Kevany	Page 9
Soraya Amiri	Pages 6 & 8
Sreeparna Chakrabarty	Page 13
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Pages 6 & 13

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beehive news

info@beehive.news

www.beehive.news

