

AGM 2017

Ambassador's Report

Keith Massey

Since being appointed later last year by council with an open brief to try and continue with my work behind the scenes in promoting the GTC and the importance of our camera role in production and the fact that as I am not filming for television now, I can tackle sensitive issues without fear of loss of work as a freelance. Last year I managed to secure a meeting with the then Secretary of State, John Whittingdale, to discuss television programme making and other matters of importance that impact on our work.

Annoyingly, as happens in the political arena, the Secretary of State lost his job in the re-shuffle and so I have again applied for another meeting with his successor but, again, we are now in another state of flux with the calling of a general election so, frustratingly, I shall have to wait and see if my request is accepted.

I have attempted to have letters and an article published in the national and regional newspapers, but as far as the national newspapers are concerned they have now become almost impossible to crack as they all have very serious issues of survival due to the internet.

On the GTC Forum in January there were complaints about an item on The One Show on primetime BBC 1 and I wrote to the BBC Director General, Lord Hall, and also to the Editor of The One Show, complaining of the low technical standards. I received a personal reply from Tony Hall, who had passed my letter onto the editor for an explanation who replied to him that they couldn't always use a professional cameraman due to the programme budget. Tony Hall was concerned but said he appreciates the GTC's efforts to try and maintain standards.

I have written to Mr Willy Walsh, CEO of International Airlines Group (IAG) who own British Airways, Are Lingus, Iberia and Vueling to see if a meeting can be instigated to see if anything can be done to help GTC and IAWF camera crews' lives being made easier transporting expensive equipment around the world and the restrictions of the onboard allowance and the possibility of damage to equipment in the hold. I am awaiting a reply.