

Terms and Conditions

- Nominations & votes are anonymous.
- There is no entry fee.
- No prize money is awarded to winners.

Eligibility

- Any individual or organisation may nominate or vote for a commentator, public personality, newspaper or magazine. Those working in the field of comment and opinion may nominate themselves and their colleagues.
- Nominees must write for UK based publications or be based in the UK, either in print or online. In the case of online comment, nominees must write for a publication which has a UK based IP address.

Award Categories and Entries

- There are sixteen award categories open for public nominations. Fifteen categories will then go forward to the judging process and one category (Twitter Public Personality) will go to a public vote.
- Entrants may participate in multiple award categories; however, a separate entry must be submitted for each award category entered. Three supporting articles must be submitted with each category nomination (*apart from specified categories: Best Comment Pages; Best Online Comment Site, Twitter Politician and Twitter Public Personality). Nominations should be for articles/commentary written between **1st August 2011 and 31st July 2012 inclusive**.
- The winner of the Twitter Public Personality category will be decided by a public vote. The three candidates with the most nominations as of 31st July for this category will be shortlisted, and the shortlist announced on 12th September. The public will then be able to submit votes for the winner via www.commentawards.com. The organisers reserve the right to open an investigation into any unusual voting activity and their decision is final.
- Please see the nomination criteria for individual category eligibility.

Privacy

- If a nominee is not successful in making the shortlist this will remain confidential. In addition, entrants may mark any commercially sensitive information contained in their entry as 'not for publication'.
- Judges deemed to have a conflict of interest with nominated organisations or individuals will not be part of the judging process for that award.
- The organisers reserve the right to use information contained in the winning entries (apart from contact details and any content marked not for publication) for subsequent publicity, promotions and other activities relating to the Awards.

General Terms and Conditions

- All nominations must be submitted electronically via www.commentawards.com or emailed directly to commentawards@editorialintelligence.com.
- Nominations must be in English and received by midnight on 31st July 2012.
- The organisers will not be responsible for nominations that may be lost or filed in an incorrect or unreadable format or otherwise.
- The organisers reserve the right to verify the information provided in each submission if required.
- In the event of any disputes or issues the decision made by the judges shall be deemed final. The organisers will not be obliged to justify their decisions or enter into any correspondence.
- For any queries regarding the awards or the awards process please contact Lily Meades at Editorial Intelligence on 020 7759 1850 or lily@editorialintelligence.com.

Nomination Criteria

Chair of the Judges: Harvey Goldsmith CBE

Commentariat of the Year (Sponsored by Jaguar Land Rover)

This award is for the commentator who is regarded as the best overall in the UK. This award is for a polemicist who makes a single argument in a particular piece on a single day.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- Nominees can have written on any subject or subjects, and entries can include articles on different subject matters.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- Thought-provoking articles
- Ability to stimulate debate
- Overall best of 'the Commentariat' in the UK

Best Comment Pages (sponsored by John Lewis Partnership)

This award is for the best printed newspaper comment pages in the UK.

Eligibility

Open to newspaper Comment Pages in printed format.

Judging Criteria

- Newspaper comment pages that consistently produce a mix of thought-provoking, insightful, sometimes irreverent, articles
- Comment pages that are appropriate for the newspaper's readership
- Demonstrations of a clear understanding of the market they reach

* Please note in this category you do not need to supply supporting documents as nominated publications will be contacted by Editorial Intelligence for supporting submissions for judges to review. If however you are submitting a nomination from the newspaper being nominated, please email your submission with supporting comment page spreads to commentawards@editorialintelligence.com.

Editorial Intelligence Ltd
South Wing
Somerset House
Strand
London
WC2R 1LA
Tel: 020 7759 1850
editorialintelligence.com

Company number 4763083
VAT number 872417024

Best Online Comment Site

This award is for the best online comment site whether it is stand alone or part of a media group, in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to online comment sites with articles on any subject or subjects, and entries can include articles on different subject matters and with different authors.
- Must be based in the UK.

Judging Criteria

- Online comment sites that have consistently complemented and/or added a new dimension to the offline comment within the publication
- Online comment sites that have been quick to respond to news events or to track themes
- Online comment sites who have developed a remarkable following
- Online comment sites that have become a talking point through provoking debate or interest
- The site's degree of integration with other material online including quotes, links to external content, previous posts or posts on related blogs
- The overall context of the online comment site

* Please note in this category you do not need to supply supporting documents as nominated publications will be contacted by Editorial Intelligence for supporting submissions for judges to review.

Columnist of the Year

This award is for the columnist (who writes on two or more subject matters on any one day) regarded as the best in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to columnists who write in either printed or online formats.
- Nominees can have written on any subjects, but must write about, in any supporting piece, two or more subject matters on any one day.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling columns in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen subject matters
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Business Commentator (sponsored by Taylor Bennett)

This is the award for the best commentator on business overall in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have delivered several pieces on this subject.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen field
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Cultural Commentator (sponsored by Bishopsgate Institute)

This award is for the best commentator on cultural issues in the UK. Subject matters can include art, music, literature and culture in society.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have delivered several pieces on this subject.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen field
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Economics Commentator (sponsored by ICAP)

This is the award for the best commentator on economic issues in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have delivered several pieces on this subject.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen field
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Foreign Commentator

This is the award for the best commentator on foreign affairs in the UK. Candidates must write for the UK media, commenting on affairs outside the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- Nominees can have written on any foreign subject or subjects, and entries can include articles on different foreign subject matters.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist, or guest columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen field
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Independent Blogger

This is the award for the independent blogger regarded as the best overall in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to individual commentators who write online, independently of any online comment site or publisher.
- Nominees can have written on any subject or subjects, and entries can include articles on different subject matters.
- Must be based in the UK.

Judging Criteria

- The blogger who has produced consistently compelling articles online
- A writer who commands attention through innovative use of the online format
- Strong grasp of their subject matters
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- The bloggers degree of integration with other material online including quotes, links to external content, previous posts or posts on related blogs
- The overall context of the blog

Mainstream Media Blogger (sponsored by Wardour)

This is the award for the blogger who writes for a mainstream media organisation, regarded as the best overall in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write online, as part of an online comment site or publisher.
- Nominees can have written on any subject or subjects, and entries can include articles on different subject matters.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The blogger who has produced consistently compelling articles online
- A writer who commands attention through innovative use of the online format
- Strong grasp of their subject matters
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- The bloggers degree of integration with other material online including quotes, links to external content, previous posts or posts on related blogs
- The overall context of the blog

Media Commentator (sponsored by Vodafone)

This is the award for the best commentator on media issues in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have delivered several pieces on this subject.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen field
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Political Commentator

This is the award for the best commentator on political issues in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have delivered several pieces on this subject.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen field
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Sketch Commentator

This is the award for the best sketchwriter in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have delivered several pieces on this subject.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Witty narrative of the Westminster scene
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing

Sports Commentator

This is the award for the best commentator on sport in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have delivered several pieces on this subject.
- Must write for the UK media.

Judging Criteria

- The columnist who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online
- Demonstration of an outstanding understanding of their chosen field
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- Strong grasp of their subject matter
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

Twitter Politician

This is the award for the politician who uses Twitter as a medium to comment, regarded as best overall in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to politicians who use Twitter as a medium to post comment. Nominees can have written on any subject or subjects.
- to qualify as a politician an individual needs to meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Sits in the Houses of Parliament
 - Has been elected to a public political position in the past 10 years
 - Is currently standing to be elected to a public political position
- Must be UK based.

Judging Criteria

- The politician who has produced consistently compelling comment on Twitter, inviting debate
- A politician who commands attention through innovative use of this online format
- Individual style or tone
- The individual's degree of integration with other material online including quotes, links to external content, previous posts or posts on related blogs and Twitter feeds.

*Please note that for this category you do not need to provide any supporting material for the judges to review other than the full Twitter identity of the nominated candidate.

Twitter Public Personality – winner chosen by public vote**

This is the award for the public personality who uses Twitter as a medium to comment, regarded as best overall in the UK.

Eligibility

- Open to public personalities who use Twitter as a medium to post comment. Nominees can have written on any subject or subjects.
- to qualify as a public personality an individual needs to meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Broadcasts regularly on television or radio
 - Writes regularly for a national publication
 - Features regularly in national press
- Must be UK based.

Judging Criteria

- The public personality who has produced consistently compelling comment on Twitter, inviting debate
- A public personality who commands attention through innovative use of this online format
- Individual style or tone

- The individual's degree of integration with other material online including quotes, links to external content, previous posts or posts on related blogs and Twitter feeds.

*Please note that for this category you do not need to provide any supporting material for the judges to review other than the full Twitter identity of the nominated candidate.

** The winner of the Twitter Public Personality category will be decided by a public vote. The three candidates with the most nominations as of 31st July for this category will be shortlisted, and the shortlist announced on 12th September. The public will then be able to submit votes for the winner via www.commentawards.com. The organisers reserve the right to open an investigation into any unusual voting activity and their decision is final.

Chair's Choice

Please note this category is not open for public nominations. The winner will be decided by the Chair of the Judges alone.

THE
COMMENT
AWARDS 
from Editorial Intelligence

Editorial Intelligence Ltd
South Wing
Somerset House
Strand
London
WC2R 1LA
Tel: 020 7759 1850
editorialintelligence.com

Company number 4763083
VAT number 872417024