

## The Comment Awards 2018 Terms and Conditions, Eligibility and Criteria

*For queries please contact*  
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Company number 4763083  
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- **Nominations & votes are anonymous.**
- **There is no entry fee for the UK awards.**
- **Chair of the Judges 2018: Julia Hobsbawm OBE**

### 1. General 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/or their colleagues.
- Nominees must write for UK-based publications, either in print or online, or be based in the UK. In the case of online comment, nominees must write for a publication that has a UK-based IP address.
- Entrants may participate in more than one award category; however, a separate entry must be submitted for each award category entered. **Three** supporting articles must be submitted with each individual category nomination and **one** supporting article for any of the Big Voices categories – denoted by an \* below. The individual categories comprise specialist sector comment while the Big Voices categories cover the more general spectrum of comment. Nominations should be for articles/commentary published between **1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 inclusive**.
- Please see section 5 for the nomination criteria and eligibility for each category.

### 2. General Information - 2018 Award Categories and Entries

- There are 17 awards in total, 15 of which are open for public nominations and will go forward to the judging process. The Chair's choice, will be judged by the Chair of the Judges alone and Commentator's Commentator will be voted for by a poll. No category sponsor will judge the award that they're sponsoring, unless it is one of the Big Voices categories as these categories are decided upon by the entire judging panel.
- Nominations are split into Individual Categories, where the winners are selected by a group of judges, and Big Voices categories, where all judges adjudicate. The categories distinguish between writers who commentate prominently on a particular subject, the individual categories, and those who write on a broad range of topics, the Big Voices. Big Voices also covers categories that are integral to the idea of comment journalism, which is why they will undergo judging by the whole group. Writers can be nominated in both category types as long as the articles meet the criteria.

### 3. General Terms and Conditions

- All nominations must be submitted electronically via [www.commentawards.com](http://www.commentawards.com).
- All nominations must be submitted in PDF format.
- All nominations must be in English and received by midnight on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- 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.

### 4. Privacy

- If a nominee is not successful in making the shortlist this will remain confidential. Entrants may mark any 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. This will be monitored by the Chair of the judging panel.

- iii. 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.

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## 5. Category Eligibility & Judging Criteria

### **BREXIT COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This award is for the best commentator on Brexit issues in the UK. Subject matters can include society, business, finance, politics etc. as long as it is overtly Brexit related.

#### **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 writer 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

### **BUSINESS COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

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 writer 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

### **COMMENT PIECE OF THE YEAR \***

This award is for a single piece of writing in any format (column, article etc.) that stands out over all others.

#### **Eligibility**

- Open to comment pieces that appear either in either printed or online formats.

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- Only open to writers or commentators who have had at least 3 pieces published in the UK media **1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 inclusive**, not authors of a single one-off guest piece.
- Nominees can have written on any subjects.
- Must write for the UK media.

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#### **Judging Criteria**

- A piece of writing that commands attention, is particularly thought-provoking or insightful or has a particularly strong grasp of their subject.
- Individual style or tone that makes the piece stand apart from others.
- A column that shows a strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing.
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient

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*\* Please note you only need submit one article for this Big Voices category*

#### **COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR \***

This award is for the commentator who is regarded as the best overall in the UK.

#### **Eligibility**

- Open to comment pieces that appear either in either printed or online formats.
- Nominees can have written on any subjects.
- Must write for the UK media.

#### **Judging Criteria**

- A piece of writing that commands attention, is particularly thought-provoking or insightful or has a particularly strong grasp of their subject.
- Individual style or tone that makes the piece stand apart from others.
- A column that shows a strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing.
- Informative articles that broaden knowledge
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate
- Overall best of 'the Commentariat' in the UK

*\* Please note you only need submit one article for this Big Voices category*

#### **CULTURE, DIARY AND SOCIAL COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the best commentator on culture or social issues, including diary formats, overall in the UK.

#### **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 writer 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

### **FRESH NEW VOICE COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This award is for the best up and coming comment writer in the UK.

#### **Eligibility**

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who may not yet have received widespread recognition but are making a big contribution to comment writing.
- Must write for the UK media.

#### **Judging Criteria**

- A writer who is not yet well established, who has produced 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

### **HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MEDICINE COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the best commentator on health, wellbeing and medicine in 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 writer 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

### **MAGAZINE COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the best magazine writer overall in the UK.

#### **Eligibility**

- Open to individual commentators who write for a magazine (they can also write for newspapers, online etc. but only pieces published in magazines will be accepted for nomination).

- 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**

- A writer who commands attention.
- Strong grasp of their subject matters
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out

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#### **POLITICAL COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

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 writer 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

#### **POPULAR COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the columnist who has a strong readership and unique voice.

#### **Eligibility**

- Open to commentators who write in either printed or online formats.
- This category recognises commentators who have made an impact on the public consciousness through their column writing.
- Must write for the UK media.

#### **Judging Criteria**

- The writer who has produced consistently compelling columns in newspapers, magazines, or online
- A strong understanding of the audience for whom they are writing
- A writer who commands attention
- Individual style or tone that marks the writer out
- A 'loud' voice that reaches beyond their readership
- Challenging, contrarian or outspoken views on a given subject
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

### **SCIENCE AND DATA COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the best commentator on scientific and data 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 writer 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

### **SOCIETY AND DIVERSITY COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the best commentator on society and diversity 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 writer 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
- Fair and accurate use of scientific evidence
- Articles that are prescient
- Ability to stimulate debate

### **SPORT COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the best commentator on sport 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 writer who has produced consistently compelling articles in newspapers, magazines, or online

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- 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

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### **UK COMMENT PAGES OF THE YEAR \***

This is the award for the best overall printed comment pages in the UK. This section may consist of multiple pages in an issue.

#### **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 you do not need to supply supporting documents as nominated publications will be contacted by ei 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](mailto:commentawards@editorialintelligence.com)*

### **WIT AND HUMOUR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR**

This is the award for the best commentator who writes with wit and humour in the UK.

#### **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**

- Witty or humorous style that comes through effectively in their writing
- A writer who commands attention
- 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

**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.

**COMMENTATOR'S COMMENTATOR**

Please note this category is not open for public nominations. The winner will be decided by a poll of UK columnists, commentators and editors.

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