About the Forum

We are members of the MediaCSRForum; 23 large media companies working together to promote corporate responsibility in the media sector. The Forum has been going for 10 years and 2013 saw the highest level of activity so far. Sister forums also exist in France and the Nordic countries.

As part of our membership, we meet, discuss and collaborate on sustainability issues with our peers and hear from key stakeholders on the issues most relevant to them and our business.

Highlights of 2013

Through our membership of the Forum, we supported and learned from the following initiatives in 2013.

Mirrors or Movers Conference 2013 saw the Forum host its first major conference at Sadler’s Wells Theatre in London. Over 30 media companies were represented, with members of the UK Forum joined by participants from the Nordic Media CR Forum and the Media RSE Forum (France). The public-facing second day had 14 speakers, spanning academics, campaigners and a broad range of media professionals, give their take on how media content influences society.

Two Research Reports The conference saw the launch of two reports published by the Forum: ‘Does it matter?’ on the materiality of CSR issues for the media sector, and ‘Mirrors or Movers?’ on the social and environmental impact of media content.

Data Privacy This is now a material issue for the sector. In 2013, Susan Morgan, Executive Director of the Global Network Initiative (GNI), and Sir Nigel Shadbolt, co-founder of the Open Data Institute, spoke on the subject. As a result, we began a workstream on what data privacy means for media organisations.

Regulation, Volunteering and Professional Bodies At other meetings Nigel Warner, author of the IPPR report ‘Life after Leveson’ presented on the future of media regulation, member organisations shared insights from their own volunteering programme, and Jenny Galbraith, Corporate Responsibility Group (CRG) board member, introduced the embryonic Institute of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (ICRS).

Plans for 2014

In 2014, we will focus on themes including diversity, the media supply chain, responsible advertising, accessibility of media, data privacy and the environmental impact of the media supply chain. The Forum also plans to host a second major conference on the influence of media content.