



THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Exposing injustice | Sparking change

Annual report 2023



Our mission

We believe investigative journalism plays a key role in keeping democracy strong, power accountable and societies more just. That is why we focus on in-depth, rigorous investigations that can make a real difference at a global, national or local level.

We look beyond the short-term news agenda and the need to generate clicks. Instead we take time to dig deep, led by the facts not by political or corporate agendas. We do not cover from difficult stories and we seek to listen to voices that are often overlooked.

Our motivation is to drive change. This means we go beyond just words on a page to work directly with those who can use what we reveal to make a difference in the world.

Our values

Just: We are committed to pursuing what is right. We act with integrity and fairness to bring injustice to light.

Honest: We deal plainly and truthfully with each other and what we uncover. We reveal the truth even when it is uncomfortable.

Courageous: We aim to break new ground. We are ambitious, tenacious and innovative.

Inclusive: We seek to build equity. We embrace diversity, different experiences and perspectives.

Collaborative: We believe people are stronger when they work together. We take a collective approach to how we tackle problems, share skills and enable change.

From the CEO

In 2023, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism continued to do what we do best: fearless, courageous reporting in the public interest.

Ours is a formidable, sharp and clever team that brings subject specialism and determination in order to interrogate power. Unlike many other newsrooms, TBIJ is mandated to go beyond the page and spark real-world change through our investigations. Our journalism makes a difference.

In 2023 we delivered almost 100 agenda-setting stories that drove impact at all levels. We exposed injustice, we sparked change.

We published the first story in our community-led pilot project, shining a light on the effects of climate change in people in the UK. Taking an innovative and inclusive approach to public interest journalism, we centred citizens at the heart of our reporting: reporting for the public, with the public.

We launched a new misinformation strand around the UK elections. Amid a tsunami of mis- and dis-information, we are committed to playing our part in exposing malpractice and safeguarding democracy.

We turned our focus to human rights abuses, exposing killings and brutal violence on a Del Monte pineapple farm in Kenya. The tragic and unreported effects on the local community lay at the heart of our reporting. As a result of our commitment to the story, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights launched an inquiry and the victims' families have been introduced to lawyers who are seeking justice.

Investigative reporting comes with the all-too-real risk of litigation. Defending our stories under huge pressure has taken hours and money, but we stand by the facts and will not be suppressed by the rich and powerful.

Leading TBIJ through its teenage years is a complete privilege. I am so grateful to the team, our Board and to all our supporters.

We simply could not do what we do without you.

Rozina Breen, CEO and editor-in-chief



From the Editor

With major elections around the world, time running out to reverse climate change, societies fracturing and the continuing concentration of power in the hands of the super-rich, our mission is as urgent as ever. Our mantra of “staying on the story” is essential: it’s the only way to ensure that our reporting has real-world impact. Highlight a problem for long enough and people will pay attention.

With 2024 being the year of elections, there are two ways we’re working to help strengthen the democratic process. The first is a new reporting project. that will monitor the inauthentic messaging aimed at tilting the scales in the UK elections— and trace the bad actors behind it. We want citizens to see how they are being targeted, governments to take action and tech companies to behave accountably.

We are also continuing our vein of community-engaged investigative journalism. After considering several communities that would be most affected by the election campaign, we settled on the trans and non-binary community. By speaking with community groups, we are identifying the issues that most affect them and working collaboratively to expose the issues they are facing. We already know that members of the community are disproportionately targeted. This investigation will show how.

The influence of money on politics is something we will continue to report on. Last year, we exposed new links between Vladimir Putin and Roman Abramovich. We will continue to lift the lid on the networks of well-connected kleptocrats and expose their methods of concealing huge wealth through the global financial system. We will show how they exert their influence to try and distort the democratic process.

We will pursue our reporting on people caught up in the exploitative global labour supply chain. We will expose the most serious causes of climate change – and the institutions funding them. We will investigate how substandard medicines are being sold in poorer countries. And we will reveal how climate change is affecting the health of millions more.

Our mission could not be more urgent.

Franz Wild, editor



Our journalism

In 2023, TBIJ delivered almost 100 agenda-setting stories, starting with courageous reporting from our Enablers team which uncovered a secret deal linking former Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich to Vladimir Putin via two of the Russian president's closest friends. Our reporter Simon Lock found the first documented link between the sanctioned oligarch and Putin, hugely advancing our understanding of how close the two actually are.

Our Enablers team had begun the year with the final part of a sweeping investigation into London's unregulated private spies, published on the front page of the Sunday Times, and would end it with the definitive long-read about the UK's booming libel-law industry. In between, they revealed attempted tax avoidance by TV stars, the costly failings of HMRC, and secret links between oligarchs and major football clubs.

Our Green Finance reporter Jo Moulds took her first steps into the Democratic Republic of Congo by plane, boat and motorbike. Over the course of a fortnight in the country, Jo uncovered an oil and gas block auction plagued with apparent preferential treatment and backroom deals – and with huge implications for the global climate. Her story's legacy in the country would be a lasting one.

Our Environment team also uncovered the secretive loan by HSBC to a company bulldozing a village in western Germany, the Harvard climate professor lobbying for Big Oil, the UK pensions funding drilling in the North Sea, and the links between the global collagen industry and the deforestation of Indigenous lands in Brazil.



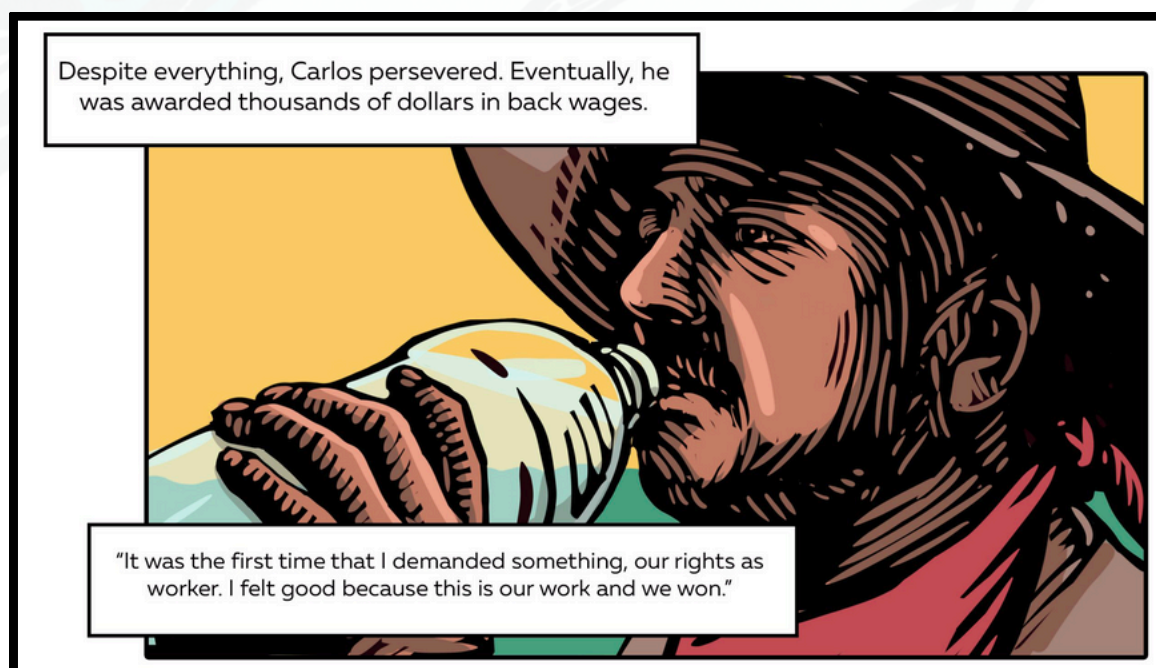
Our Global Health kicked off the year with the publication of a major investigation into the poor-quality – and sometimes even useless – cancer drugs that have made their way around the world, mostly to poorer countries.

The story prompted questions in European parliament, an investigation from the World Health Organization and the development of pioneering devices that flag these bad medicines. It would go on to win a number of major awards.

After following that up by revealing the defective drugs in hospitals across Italy, the team rounded off the year with another exhaustive piece, this time detailing the failings, cover-ups and corruption allegations within a huge \$10bn aid project funded by the US international development agency.

TBIJ also produced its first ever comic, telling the story of an exploited migrant farmworker in North Carolina and the ways he is able to fight for better conditions.

This was borne of the need to make our investigation – and its implications – accessible for the people most affected: the workers themselves. We had to consider low literacy, low connectivity and low engagement with legacy media. And all without sacrificing quality storytelling.



In the summer we launched a new reporting strand on misinformation and elections, which has already borne fruit and will come into its own during 2024, a huge election year worldwide. This expands on the extraordinary work from the Big Tech team, which so far has centred on reporter Niamh McIntyre's focus on the exploitation of digital gig workers in the global south – the Dickensian horror of our times.

Her investigations last year revealed the low-paid workers powering major dating apps, sprawling online catfishing factories and the cybercriminals carrying out cryptocurrency scams. Her reporting on the conditions faced by of TikTok moderators resulted in a Colombian subcontractor signing a “historic agreement” giving 40,000 workers the right to form a union.

Back in the UK, our three-year investigation into Thurrock council culminated by revealing that the authority had been cheated out of £130m by a rogue businessman, leaving Thurrock with the largest budget deficit in local government history.

Bureau Local also revealed the wild west of misinformation, hidden fees and murky advertising tactics that is the personal-debt industry. They published a groundbreaking multi-part investigation in the exploitation of migrant workers. And led the way in a first-of-its-kind pilot reporting on the family courts.

It also launched its Community-Led investigations pilot, starting with the Hot Homes project, which looked at the converging crises of climate, housing and health in south London. The project would conclude with a major story in December – and a million-pound pledge from Southwark council.



One of our proudest agenda-setting stories from 2023 uncovered shocking violence perpetrated by security guards at a vast pineapple farm in Kenya run by the multinational food company Del Monte. The story would not typically fall within our remit but it was one we couldn't turn our backs on.

After months of rigorous reporting, we were able to publish our findings of a decade-long pattern of violence, abuse and killings by Del Monte guards.

And we made sure we stayed on the story. We followed it up by revealing that a report commissioned by Del Monte in the wake of our investigation told of major human rights violations. And then – after four more deaths has taken place on the farm – we revealed that Del Monte representatives had been accused of offering bribes in an attempt to cover up the circumstances.

It was one of our most demanding investigations of the year. It was also one of the most rewarding.

Following publication, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights launched an investigation. Families of those killed have begun to organise and demand justice. And in March, following the results of an independent human rights assessment, the company overhauled the farm's security operation altogether.

That story is still unfolding – and we are staying on it.



Our impact

JANUARY

10

Amazon execs summoned by select committee

TBIJ's reporting is cited extensively by the Business Select Committee in a letter to Amazon executives criticising the company's failure to provide a full picture of warehouse worker monitoring. The committee planned to recall Amazon for questioning based on our work.



23

Government promises crackdown on energy firms

The energy secretary writes to the regulator urging a "more robust approach" to protecting vulnerable people as part of a five-point plan announced by a government to stop harm to people on prepayment meters. TBIJ had revealed that thousands of vulnerable people had been going without gas and electricity for days at a time.

26

Platini hacking investigation

French police launched an investigation into the alleged email hacking of former Uefa president Michel Platini in connection with the Qatar World Cup. This followed a major joint-investigation by the Bureau and the Sunday Times detailing how a group of hackers in India had targeted critics of Qatar.

FEBRUARY

2

Waitrose takes disposable vapes off its shelves

Following our report in December which revealed that two disposable vapes are being thrown away every second in the UK, Waitrose announces it is completely withdrawing from the single use vapes market, directly citing our evidence in its press release. The Scottish government also launched an urgent review into their environmental impact of disposable vapes – which could lead to an outright ban.

22

WHO Oxygen Resolution

The World Health Organization adopted a landmark oxygen resolution which could massively reduce the huge number of deaths every year due to poor access to affordable medical oxygen. The resolution urged all member states to include oxygen on national lists of essential medicines, which would help ensure it is made available and affordable.



TBIJ's exposé of the tragedy was a turning point in our efforts to rally an international response

LEITH GREENSLADE, EVERY BREATH COUNTS

MARCH

6

Major collagen brand takes action on Amazon

TBIJ's investigation becomes the first to link the booming collagen industry to deforestation and invasion of Indigenous lands in Brazil. Following our story, we learned that Vital Proteins stopped sourcing from the Amazon. Politicians and campaigners said our reporting will support calls for collagen to be included in future revisions to UK and EU legislation on deforestation. In reporting this investigation, we worked closely with Indigenous communities to tell the story from the perspective of those most affected.



24

Locals take to streets over Thurrock scandal

Hundreds of local residents gather outside the civic offices in Thurrock to make their feelings known following TBIJ's three-year exposé of the disastrous investment policy that left the council effectively bankrupt. Resident's anger was fuelled by the decision of Michael Gove to give Thurrock permission to impose a 10% council tax hike without a local referendum, raising bills by hundreds of pounds a year during a cost-of-living crisis.



**We're not paying your
gambling debts**

**BANNER CARRIED BY THURROCK RESIDENTS
IN LOCAL DEMONSTRATION**

APRIL

5

Major investigation into migrant workers

In collaboration with Vice News, TBIJ publishes a major multi-part investigation about the abuses faced by migrant workers in the UK's agriculture sector. We reveal how labourers on UK farms have faced unlawful wage deductions, been housed in unsafe accommodations and been threatened deportation if they complain. The reporting would be used as evidence in a House of Lords inquiry into the future of the horticultural sector.



19

Teleperformance signs landmark union deal

The global outsourcing giant Teleperformance signs a “historic agreement” guaranteeing its 40,000 workers in Colombia the right to form a union following a TBIJ investigation into the working conditions faced by the company's TikTok moderators. In June, a class action lawsuit was filed against Teleperformance. The case, which relied substantially on TBIJ's reporting, claimed that the company had misled investors over working conditions for its content moderators, who were subject to “widespread occupational trauma without psychological support... extensive surveillance, and aggressive union-busting tactics”.



This is a global model of how unions and companies can work together to protect workers' rights

UNI GLOBAL UNION

MAY

19

Football authorities greenlight Abramovich investigation

The Dutch FA authorises an investigation into ties between former Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich and top-flight club Vitesse Arnhem. The decision followed a TBIJ story that uncovered a complex network of loans between the club's holding company and a series of offshore entities appearing to trace back to the sanctioned oligarch.



JUNE

23

Seasonal workers report to Lords select committee

Sybil Msezane, Vadim Sardov and Andrey Okhrimenko, who featured in TBIJ's reporting on the issues migrant workers face on British farms, are asked to give evidence at the House of Lords. Along with a TBIJ reporter, they told the horticultural sector committee of the poor working conditions and exploitation they experienced. Following this session, the committee published a new report urging the government to clamp down on the widespread abuse in this sectors.

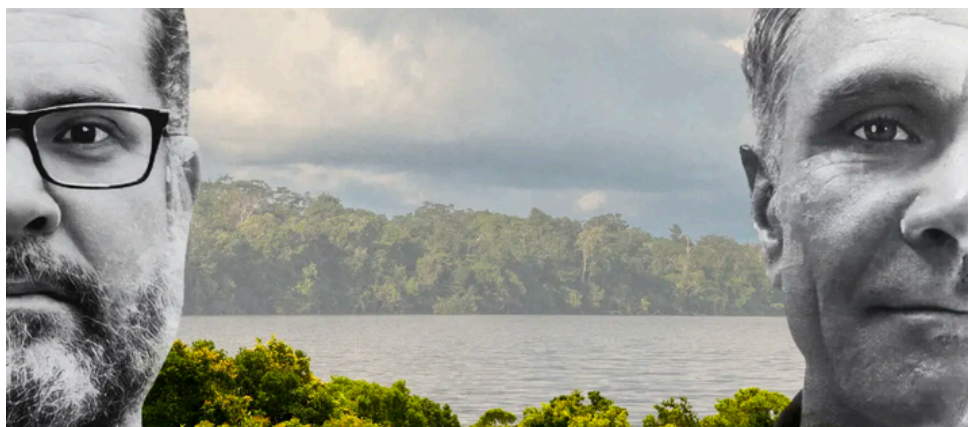


During the whole employment we received threats. 'We will cancel your visa, we can send you back home'

**SEASONAL WORKER ANDREY OKHRIMENKO
ADDRESSES HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE**

JUNE

The Bruno and Dom Project



Dom Phillips was a journalist who worked with TBIJ on numerous investigations into the forces behind the catastrophic destruction of the Amazon. In June 2022 he was killed in the Amazon along with Indigenous peoples expert Bruno Pereira. Last year, we teamed up with international outlets to continue their work.

The Bruno and Dom Project was a huge collaborative investigation coordinated by Forbidden Stories that involves more than 50 journalists from 16 media organisations.

Our contribution was a complex data-driven investigation, done with the Guardian and Repórter Brasil, showing that more than 800 million trees have been cut down in the Amazon rainforest in just six years to feed the world's appetite for Brazilian beef, despite dire warnings about the forest's importance in fighting the climate crisis.

Our reporting on the razing of Amazon, much of it done with the help of Dom, has connected huge but little-known companies, like JBS and Cargill, to more familiar everyday brands such as Tesco, Walmart or HSBC. Tracing these supply chains is impossibly complex. But it means we are able to show readers in Coventry or Colorado how their everyday choices can affect a faraway global emergency.

As a result of our reporting, European supermarkets have stopped selling certain Brazilian beef products and campaigners called on banks to boycott JBS. In 2022 Tesco, Waitrose and Sainsbury's launched an \$11m scheme to tackle soya-led deforestation. We've seen action from European and UK parliaments, and the introduction of laws to tackle goods and products fuelling environmental destruction.

Climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity. And the razing of rainforests is accelerating the crisis. Our reporting will continue to uncover wrongdoing and injustice – and to hold the world's most powerful players to account.

JULY

24

Human rights investigation into Del Monte

Following our story on the shocking allegations of human rights abuses by Del Monte security guards at a huge pineapple farm in Kenya, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights launches an investigation. In the UK, Tesco and later Waitrose take Del Monte products from the farm off their shelves. Politicians in Kenya and in the European Parliament raise concerns about the allegations of violence.



AUGUST

3

Thurrock investigation reaches culmination

Our three-year investigation into the ruinous investment deals of a local authority in Essex comes to a head with the publication of a major story revealing how rogue businessman appeared to have cheated Thurrock council out of as much as £130m and spent the money on a life of luxury. BBC Panorama broadcasts the story of potentially the largest fraud ever committed against a UK local authority, which would be nomination for investigation of the year at the British Journalism Awards



It looks like the council has been a victim of a colossal fraud and residents will be picking up the tab

**JOHN KENT, LEADER OF THURROCK'S
LABOUR GROUP**

4

Harvard climate professor steps down

In April, we revealed that Harvard Environmental law Professor Jody Freeman lobbied a colleague who worked with the US financial regulator on behalf of ConocoPhillips. Freeman was paid \$3million over nine years for sitting on the board of the hugely polluting oil and gas company. Following our story, Freeman came under sustained pressure from campaigners, including calls for her to be fired by Harvard during a protest at the university's Climate Forum. In August, we broke the story that Freeman had quietly resigned her lucrative role with an announcement on her website that she wanted to "pursue other opportunities".

SEPTEMBER

12

Nestlé drops Marfrig

Nestlé, the world's largest food company, removes Marfrig from its list of Brazilian suppliers. This follows TBIJ's revelation that Marfrig, a major meat company, had sourced cattle from seized Indigenous land.



**This is a fight against big companies.
TBIJ's story gave us strength to
continue fighting for our territory**

**TYPJU MYKY, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
LEADER AND FILMMAKER**

SEPTEMBER

9

Sugar's attempt to dodge tax bill

TBIJ reveals that Lord Alan Sugar tried to avoid a £186m tax bill by becoming a non-resident. His attempt failed because he is a member of the House of Lords, who are automatically ineligible; and we revealed that the billionaire alleged he wasn't warned of his ineligibility by tax advisers. In documents seen by TBIJ, it is alleged he said he would have given up his Lords seat had he known it would save him the tax bill.

6

OCTOBER

New test in the works to catch defective cancer drugs

American researchers begin developing cheap, simple tests to allow doctors in low-income countries to check the quality of asparaginase, a key medicine for treating childhood cancer. This follows a major investigation by TBIJ that revealed poor-quality, ineffective or even dangerous brands of asparaginase had been shipped to more than 90 countries, putting an estimated 70,000 children at risk.

In the wake of our story, MEPs submitted questions to the European Commission on Europe's role in the scandal, the Italian Senate vowed to investigate the country's use of substandard brands and SIOP, a global paediatric cancer organisation, began to tell doctors our findings. In late 2023, the WHO confirmed it has opened an inquiry.



30

OCTOBER

Parliament introduces landmark anti-Slapps law

The UK introduces the first legislation against SLAPP lawsuits, giving UK judges new powers to dismiss cases trying to suppress criticism or scrutiny of the rich and powerful in cases relating to economic crime. TBIJ had been a driving force in the UK anti-SLAPP coalition and continues to push further protections.



We must move without delay to remove this rot at the heart of our justice system

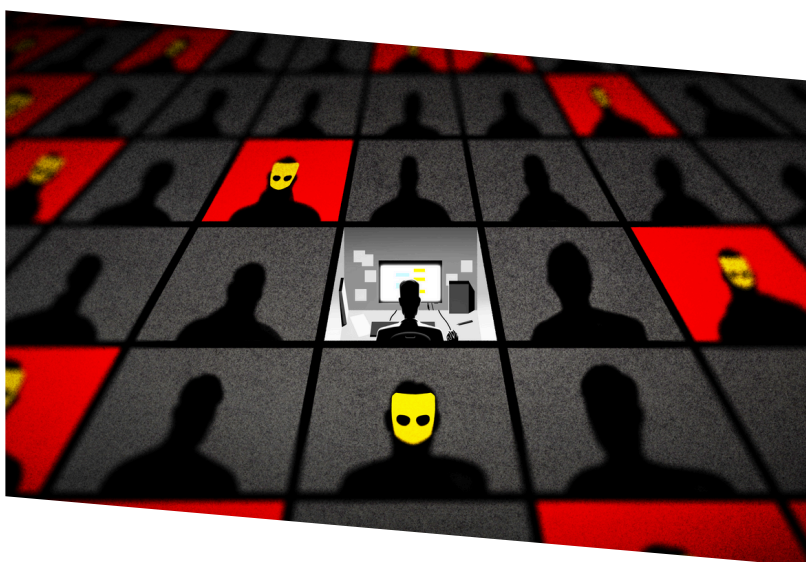
DAVID DAVIS MP

24

NOVEMBER

Dating Apps investigation makes instant impact

Following our exhaustive exposé on the conditions faced by outsourced workers for major dating apps, Congresswoman Ann McKuster gets in touch with TBIJ to request a briefing as she explores “legislative solutions to correct these harms”. Grindr's contractor says the app has asked it to “take the article seriously”.



Thank you for your work. I hope these stories empower others. Grindr is not compensating employees for the risks we take daily

FORMER GRINDR WORKER IN HONDURAS

14

Cyprus Confidential project goes public

The billionaire Roman Abramovich has done the most to soften the image of Russia's elite in the west. We publish the clearest paper trail yet linking him to Vladimir Putin, through a secret deal with two of the president's close friends. We also show that offshore companies owned by Abramovich made a series of undisclosed payments during Chelsea's rise to the top of global football. The reporting gave ammunition to MEPs keen to ensure football clubs, agents and associations are included in the EU's anti-money laundering (AML) rules. Damien Carême, the French green-party lawmaker who is spearheading AML talks on behalf of the European Parliament says: "The Chelsea affair shows once again the inherent risks in the football sector."

DECEMBER

5

Hot Homes project publishes first major story

Bureau Local's community-led pilot project exposes how the UK's housing stock is unprepared for the climate crisis. Identifying an emerging issue before it hit the mainstream allowed huge scope for impact, and TBIJ's research and reporting has fed into reports undertaken by Westminster, the London Mayor's office and even RIBA. In February Southwark announced that it would commit £1m to protect the borough's most vulnerable areas against the worst impacts of the climate crisis – citing TBIJ's "landmark" story in its statement.



A detailed action plan has been produced including an approach to address hot homes – highlighted by engagement with TBIJ

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

DECEMBER

1

Law firm's dirty tactics exposed

Following TBIJ's long-read about notorious libel law firm Carter-Ruck, Dan Neidle, founder of Tax Policy Associates and former head of tax at Clifford Chance, publishes an investigative report and Twitter thread analysing our findings, and submits a complaint about Carter-Ruck to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. One of the lawyers named in our story, who had acted on behalf of Baroness Mone in the PPE scandal, apologises for misleading the media – demonstrating how our story may have played into growing momentum towards the greater scrutiny of solicitors.

11

Major bidder drops out of DRC oil auction

The Democratic Republic of Congo was auctioning oil and gas blocks across the country, including in vital parts of the Congo Basin rainforest. In December, Perenco, the last credible bidder for blocks in the auction, pulled out. The process is now being seen as a disaster and there is a suggestion that the Minister of Hydrocarbons may lose his job. Sources in DRC said our story highlighting corruption in the auction of gas blocks played a role in scaring away foreign bidders and investors.



**We owe our survival to the forest.
We refuse oil exploitation**

NADINE BOLUMBU, VILLAGE CHIEF IN LOSOKO, DRC

Audiences

Diversifying our storytelling is hugely important to us, everyone has a stake in accountability journalism. And so in 2023 we worked harder on making sure our investigations reached audiences everywhere, including new and under-served ones. How could we at TBIJ adapt our approach to make sure the deep public interest reporting we do is getting in front of the widest possible audience?

We decided to do our own research and asked them. They said our values were what mattered to them: reporting that uncovers the truth, investigations that hold power to account, journalism that drives change. And they wanted more explanatory content, as well as a window into how reporters go about investigating in the first place.

This led to the development of the TBIJ Audience Needs model. All TBIJ stories now fall into one of the four following categories:

- 1 **EXPOSE: SHOW ME HOW ABUSES OF POWER AFFECT ME AND THE WORLD I LIVE IN**
- 2 **DISCOVER: EDUCATE ME**
- 3 **INVOLVE: SHOW ME HOW YOU GOT THERE**
- 4 **SPARK: SHOW ME HOW YOUR WORK HAS IMPACTED THE WORLD I LIVE IN**

The newsroom produces different types of stories depending on how they serve the needs of those reading them. It marks the start of a more considered two-way relationship between newsroom and reader.

It's not just about engaging audiences on tbij.com. In 2023 we relaunched our flagship weekly newsletter, resulting in a 13% increase in open rates. The audience team also focused on meeting audiences where they are – from vertical video content on TikTok and Instagram to free-to-join livestream shows introducing new audiences to the work we do.

We also went further to spotlight the voices of the people affected by the topics of our investigations. This included producing videos featuring Essex residents affected by the botched business deal of its council, and an interview with the first overseas seasonal worker to recount their experiences in front of MPs.

Bureau Insiders

With a fresh focus on TBIJ's direct audience and stories that meet their needs, we have been able to forge a deeper relationship with those who engage with our investigations. In 2023, we started to build a community around our work, with the launch of Bureau Insiders.

This membership community gives us the opportunity to involve our audience more deeply in our work, and to diversify our revenue streams as we look to secure sustainable funding for the future.

Bureau Insiders donate to TBIJ every month because they believe investigative journalism is vital to keeping democracy alive. The money they contribute directly supports our investigations, helping us to expose injustice and spark change.

While TBIJ has accepted donations from readers for a number of years, this is the first time we have put dedicated resource into attracting new donors and focused our efforts on deepening our relationship with them. Through weekly campaign emails, we have been experimenting with messaging and format to establish what types of call to action resonate most with our audience, using a test-and-iterate approach to improve conversion rates. We have improved the technical infrastructure that supports our membership operation, so that becoming a member is a frictionless experience for those who choose to support us. And we have developed a communication program with our members so that they can see the important impact their support has.

Already, we are seeing promising results.

Since the launch of Bureau Insiders in November 2023, our membership community has grown by more than 60%. Monthly recurring reader revenue has grown by more than 40%. And our Insiders community is deeply engaged with our work. Our members' newsletter - giving an insight into how TBIJ's journalism is produced - has an average open rate of more than 60%.



Community

When you think about the creation of a news story, what do you imagine? An open-plan newspaper office, with the editor's room in the corner? TV screens flashing up the headlines of the day and trending social media topics? A morning conference where senior staff decide which stories are commissioned and rejected?

At TBIJ, we aim to do something different. We want to put communities at the heart of our journalism, helping us report and shape our investigations, and leaving a legacy of learning for others to access.

In 2023 our Bureau Local team launched TBIJ's new Community-Led Investigations project. Our ambition is to work together with communities that are marginalised, or who have been harmed or ignored by the media, to investigate the issues most important to them. We will build trust, power and capacity so that the people we work with are equipped to carry on holding power to account in the future.

The first of these projects revealed the shocking scale of overheating in UK home in the summer months. We held local meet-up events to hear about the issue, gave call-outs for participants via community groups, and finally collaborated with residents to gather the data at the centre of the story.

The result was a story driven by those most affected – which has already made major real-world impact



Our fellows

Diversifying our newsroom and widening the opportunity for underrepresented talent to join us is vital to us. We have been running a fellowship programme since 2016 and our fellows have gone on to produce award-winning journalism and work for media organisations across the UK.

Hajar Meddah



Billie Gay Jackson



In 2023, we launched our inaugural Bruce Page Fellowship, intended for entry-level or early-career Black journalists. We did not specify the need for a degree or journalism training in but some complementary experience in research, writing and/or community engagement.

The fellowship was created in the name of the late Sunday Times investigative reporter and New Statesman editor. Bruce's desire to do journalism that "names the guilty men" and "points to the defective parts" is an ethos shared by TBIJ.

We owe a huge thank you to our co-founder Elaine Potter for her introduction to Anne Page, Bruce's widow, who was very open to a conversation about a fellowship in Bruce's name. We were delighted the first fellow was Billie Gay Jackson.

We also welcomed our second Aziz Fellow, Hajar Meddah, whose bylines appeared on a number of stories including the Hot Homes project, for which she contributed significant community engagement and reporting. She applied her abilities in research and OSINT to our DRC reporting, led on a investigation into meat-industry misinformation and worked on a major story about the abuse of migrant workers.

Alice Milliken, who led our fellowships programmes, says: "It was immediately clear at interview that Hajar has what it takes to do the thinking, digging, grafting and writing required to do important hard-hitting journalism. She centres communities and seeks to expose the abuses hidden behind the banality of everyday life."

Shortly after leaving TBIJ, Hajar was hired by the Centre for Climate Reporting as an investigative reporter.

Board statement

It was an honour to become TBIJ co-chairs in May 2023. The dedication, commitment and tenacity of the staff never fails to impress us and this was certainly true throughout 2023. To co-chair an organisation that produces world-leading investigations at a time when society seems more divided than ever is both a pleasure and a responsibility that we accept with relish.

We were on front pages across the globe, uncovering abuses and telling stories others couldn't – or wouldn't. Most importantly, our journalism sparked change. Our findings helped individuals, communities and those in power to drive for change. Impact is the jewel in our crown and something we remain extremely proud of.

In March we published the first ever investigation to link the global collagen industry to deforestation and the invasion of Indigenous lands in Brazil. As a result, Vital Proteins told its buyers it will end sourcing from the Amazon, effective immediately.

We lifted the lid on the abhorrent working conditions migrant workers face on British farms. Sybil Msezane, Vadim Sardov and Andrey Okhrimenko – who had told us their stories – were asked to give evidence to the House of Lords alongside TBIJ. The committee published a new report urging the government to clamp down.

In October, the UK introduced the first anti-Slapp law, giving UK judges new powers to dismiss lawsuits aimed at silencing those speaking out about economic crime. These are lawsuits intended to censor, intimidate and silence critics by burdening them with a costly legal defence. We are proud to be part of the UK anti-Slapp coalition and will continue to fight for journalism in 2024 and beyond.

We remain grateful to all of our friends and supporters as well as those who have given us their time, money or expertise. We couldn't do any of our work without our community. As you read this report, we hope you feel proud of your contribution.

Finally, we would like to thank our fellow Trustees and all of the staff of TBIJ for their extraordinary commitment and fearlessness throughout the year. We are honoured to chair an organisation made up of such dedicated, exceptional individuals.

Isabel Hilton and Richard Sambrook, co-chairs, TBIJ board

Awards

Although they are not a driving force for our work, awards are an indicator of the calibre of our reporting and strength within the sector and testament to the power of our investigations. Throughout 2023, we were delighted that our reporting was recognised at a number of high-profile ceremonies

Winner: Medical journalists' Association - Feature of the Year (general audience); (*The drug was meant to save children's lives. Instead, they're dying*)

Winner: One World Media Awards 2023 - Print Award; (*The drug was meant to save children's lives. Instead, they're dying*)

Winner: ESG story of the year, Headline Money Awards: (*Mines, pipelines and oil rigs: what HSBC's 'sustainable finance' really pays for*)

Runner-up: Scoop of the year, Sports Journalism Awards: (*The hidden truth behind Abramovich's Chelsea empire*)

Highly commended: British Journalism Awards for our Environment stories on collagen, poultry and sustainable finance. Judges described the work as "impactful public interest journalism where the reporters got their hands dirty"

Highly commended: British Journalism Awards for *Bruno and Dom project*. Judges said: "This was a mighty reporting effort in a noble cause – to ensure that killing a journalist didn't kill the story of criminal environmental destruction they uncovered."

Shortlisted: British Journalism Awards, Investigation of the year (*The Sunshine Millionaire: How one man took £130m from British taxpayers*)

Shortlisted: Foreign Press Awards, Investigation of the year (*Collagen craze drives deforestation and rights abuses*)

Shortlisted: True Story Award (*The drug was meant to save children's lives. Instead, they're dying*)

Shortlisted: Covering Climate Now, Long-form Writing (*Mines, pipelines and oil rigs: what HSBC's 'sustainable finance' really pays for*)

Shortlisted: Covering Climate Now, Engagement (*What Does Your Food Have to Do With the Invasion of Indigenous Lands*)

Shortlisted: Sigma Awards (*Bruno and Dom project*)

Shortlisted: Daphne Caruana Galizia Award (*Bruno and Dom project*)

Shortlisted: Colpin Awards (*Bruno and Dom project*)

Our supporters

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Finances

Income	
Organisational grants	1,206,404.98
Project grants	1,618,426.49
Donations and other	49,336.90
	2,874,167.37
Expenditure	
Editorial, production and audience	684,498.46
Operations and fundraising	236,208.93
Organisational costs	331,903.77
Bureau Local	534,887.51
Environment	462,772.70
Big Tech	122,892.47
Global Health	238,546.66
Enablers	259,327.14
	2,871,037.64