

**To the Chief Exec Nick Alexander [nick.alexander@garnett-dickinson.co.uk](mailto:nick.alexander@garnett-dickinson.co.uk),**  
cc [Andrew.Mosley@rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.Mosley@rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk),  
[debbie.commander@garnett-dickinson.co.uk](mailto:debbie.commander@garnett-dickinson.co.uk), [syorksnuj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:syorksnuj@hotmail.co.uk), [campaigns@nuj.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@nuj.org.uk)

Dear Mr Alexander

I am writing on behalf of University of Sheffield staff to express deep concern at the threatened redundancy of Phil Turner, the NUJ Father of the Chapel at the Rotherham Advertiser. We understand he has been working for the company for over 30 years, and is the only member of editorial staff to be so threatened. This is not simply a trades union matter. Freedom of the press is conditional on journalists feeling they are protected from arbitrary discipline. This can undoubtedly sometimes be awkward for managements, but a balance is essential for a healthy society. We have to strike a similar balance here at the University with academic freedom - again essential for a healthy society.

We would strongly urge you to reconsider this threatened redundancy.

Regards.

Sheffield UCU President

**To [syorksnuj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:syorksnuj@hotmail.co.uk), [campaigns@nuj.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@nuj.org.uk)**

Dear Phil

We have copied you in to our email message to your Chief Exec protesting at your threatened redundancy. Sheffield UCU takes very seriously this threat to the trades union at the Rotherham Advertiser, and to the journalistic integrity which that defends. We understand the importance for all of us of preventing this apparent victimisation of a leading South Yorkshire trades unionist.

We are keeping our members fully informed and offer you our support in your struggle.

In solidarity

Sheffield UCU President