

Euro-MP-surveillance!

A MOTION passed at the NUJ's recent Delegate Meeting (see page 4) drew members' attention to an NUJ Brussels Branch list of eight questions for you to put your local candidates in the European elections on surveillance. The elections are on **Thursday 22 May** in the UK, on the same day as the local council elections, covered by the same polling card. They're on **Friday 23 May** in Ireland.

The eight question for Euro-can-

didates cover their policies (or the striking lack of them) on the surveillance of absolutely everybody, retention of the data that's gathered in this way, and transparency of national budgets and Euro-budgets earmarked for "security" (supposedly). They're at <http://tinyurl.com/8Qeuosurv>, which links to some background material – it's a more engaging read than it might sound.

Also on the subject of surveil-

lance, the *Freelance* spoke with NUJ Legal Officer Roy Mincoff at the Delegate Meeting. Roy said there would be some developments shortly in the NUJ's campaign on the blacklisting of journalists on "domestic extremist" databases held by (UK) police units such as the National Public Order Intelligence Unit and others. See www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1312ncde.html and watch www.nuj.org.uk and this space for updates.

Skirmish of Trafalgar, part 97

POLICY-WISE, the issue of filming and photography in Trafalgar Square was put to bed two years ago, with the Greater London Authority issuing an authorisation letter, following NUJ representations – see the April 2012 *Freelance*. (They seem, though, since to have lost it in a website reorganisation. We're looking for it.)

Policy, however, does not take account of Man With Bunch of Keys and Compensation Issues Syndrome. The *Freelance* notes with interest the account given at indyrikki.wordpress.com/2014/04/03/

heritage-wardens-in-traffic-square-hassle-student-film-makers/ of wardens claiming an interestingly diminuendo range of justifications for hassling student film-makers.

We have found clarification in response to a 2012 Freedom of Information request:

The Byelaws place no restrictions on private or amateur photography. Under the Byelaws, there are restrictions on commercial photography and filming, in that prior written approval is required from

the Greater London Authority. A pre-authorisation scheme is operated that allows members of the professional news media to go about their news gathering activities on Parliament Square Gardens provided they display or produce, when requested by an Authorised Officer, a UK Press Card Authority Press Card.

The GLA Press Office confirm this policy and have promised to hunt down the authorisation letter.

More, soon, we hope.