

Welcome to the Camera Branch

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Camera Branch of the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Communications & Theatre Union (a sector of the Prospect Union). Getting involved will help ensure you have a say in the progress of the industry.

The Camera Branch represents image acquisition professionals in all sectors of the moving image industries. Aside from those working directly with motion picture cameras, the team also includes those involved in the process, such as Script Supervisors, Digital Image Technicians and Production Stills Photographers.

Our website is <https://camerabrand.org.uk/> You can also follow us on Twitter & Instagram: @camerabrand

The BECTU sector of Prospect currently has over 40,000 members.

The Camera Branch is a craft-based branch. Along with branches for other motion picture crafts, we represent freelance crew members working in the London Production Division (LPD).

LPD is one of six BECTU Divisions. The others are:

- Arts & Entertainment Division - including theatre
- BBC Division: BBC staff & contractors
- Communications and Digital Division - including BT members
- Independent Broadcasting Division - including ITV, independent radio staff & contractors
- Regional Production Division: Independent media in the Nations & Regions

Here are links to more information:

- London Production Division: <https://lpd.org.uk/>
 - BECTU: <https://www.bectu.org.uk>
 - Prospect: <https://www.prospect.org.uk/>
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To keep up with branch activities and events, remember to regularly check our diary page:

<https://camerabrand.org.uk/diary/>

What You Can Do

A union has the unique power to negotiate with employers on behalf of its members. This means we can work with employers to create agreements on common contractual terms for everybody. We can also negotiate rates of pay for the various industry roles. This is done at the direction of members like you and with the democratic consent of a vote on major agreements and other activities of the union. Of course, this can only be done when we can reach agreement with employers. While many are happy to engage in dialogue, those who are not will often respond to pressure from workers who stick together.

In addition, the union has a strong influence on professional standards and training and can campaign more broadly for people to be fairly treated in wider society.

There are many ways you can get involved. Staying in touch with the branch is important to ensure there is a broad understanding of the issues members are facing in their work. More directly, you should aim to attend the branch general meetings as often as you can. There are usually four of these each year, publicised on the website, by email and social media.

If you have a taste for greater involvement, you can join the branch committee. In addition to positions representing work roles and industry sectors, you can also volunteer for positions managing the committee itself. Many roles can be shared or deputised and some projects need the help of member volunteers, so there are many ways to dip your toes into the water before taking on greater responsibility. The committee is elected annually by members at the Annual General Meeting, though the committee can co-opt members between those events if needed.

Beyond the branch, you can be elected to positions on the divisional committee or even the national executive committee. Within BECTU, there are also interest based committees such as the Womens Equality Committee, Young (under 35) members committee, the Black Members' Committee & the LGBT+ Committee.

Each year there is a union conference. Branches can send an allocation of members based on their size. Propositions can also be submitted to the conference for voting. If agreed, these propositions direct the business of the National Executive committee for the coming year.

A List of Current Camera Branch Committee Positions:

Chair	Branch Sustainability Rep
Secretary	Branch Outside Broadcast Rep
Branch Treasurer	
Vice Chair	Branch Representative: Cinematographers
Vice Secretary	Branch Representative: Camera Operators
Branch Membership (and Recruitment) Officer	Branch Representative: Focus
Branch Diversity & Inclusion Officer	Branch Representative: Loaders
Branch Publications (Communications) Officer	Branch Representative: DITs
Branch Health & Safety Rep	Branch Representative: Script Supervisors
Branch Learning Rep	Branch Representative: Playback
Branch Film Rep	Branch Representative: Stills
Branch TV Drama Rep	Branch Representative: Trainees
Branch Advertising Rep	Young Member's Divisional Representative
Branch Factual Rep	
Branch Entertainment Rep	London Production Division Rep (with the Chair
Branch Low-Budget Rep	& Secretary)

A Brief History Of The Union

1890 The United Kingdom Theatrical and Music Hall Operatives' Union is formed at the Adelphi Theatre, London.

1901 It was renamed to the National Union of Theatrical Stage Employees (NUTSE).

1904 The union began recruiting workers in cinemas, and renamed itself the National Association of Theatrical Employees (NATE)

1927 The FAA (Film Artistes Association) was formed.

1933 The ACT was founded by technicians at the Gaumont British Studios as the Association of Cine-Technicians, later becoming the Association of Cinematograph Technicians.

1936 Another rename for the NATE to the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees. (NATKE)

1945 The BBC Staff (Wartime) Association and the Association of BBC Engineers merge to form the BBC Staff Association.

1955 The ACT began to represent technicians working on ITV, and the following year incorporated "Television" into its name (ACTT).

1956 The BBC Staff Association began to represent ITV workers, renaming itself the Association of Broadcasting Staff (ABS)

1970 NATKE recruits television workers and the word is added to the name (NATTKE).

1974 The ABS renames itself to the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs.

1983 NATTKE merged with the National Association of Executives Managers and Staffs.

1984 NATTKE & the ABS merge to become The Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance (BETA).

1991 BETA merged with the ACTT to form the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union (BECTU).

1995 The FAA transferred its engagements to BECTU.

2017 BECTU merges with the Prospect union. Total membership is over 140,000.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Association_of_Theatrical_and_Kine_Employees

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Cinematograph_Television_and_Allied_Technicians

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Broadcasting_Staff

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadcasting_and_Entertainment_Trades_Alliance

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadcasting%2C_Entertainment%2C_Cinematograph_and_Theatre_Union

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prospect_\(trade_union\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prospect_(trade_union))