

Who should own The Telegraph?

Published: January 12, 2026, 11:24 pm

As the [FT reports](#) his morning:



About a decade ago, I helped make a BBC documentary on the Barclay Brothers, working with John Sweeney. I admit that their family's loss of control of these papers would cause me no distress, but it is important to note two things about this report.

First, Lloyds has not yet taken control.

Second, if it does, the Telegraph will survive, as will the Spectator. It is the parent company that is in trouble, not the operating companies.

So, what is most likely is that The Telegraph and Spectator will get new owners. So, the real question of the morning is how will the fit and proper status of those new owners be appraised?

I happened for once to agree with a member of the Windsor clan yesterday, when the Duke of Sussex told a court that the state of our press has much to do with the state of this country, which would not be in the mess it is in but for the dire state of the press that had failed to hold ministers and others to account.

Who could do that job whilst owning these right-wing rags? The Telegraph was once a worthwhile paper, even if I did not agree with it way back when it was my father's paper of choice when I was a teenager. Now it is amongst the worst of the gutter press.

Is there anyone who could make money and save this paper from itself, those who use it to peddle falsehoods and a readership who appear to lap such nonsense up?