IPSO ANNUAL STATEMENT 2016

Introduction

Future plc is an international publishing and media group, and a leading digital company. Celebrating over 30 years in business, Future was founded in 1985 with one magazine – we now create over 200 print publications, apps, websites and events through operations in the UK, US and Australia. The company employs approximately 500 employees. Future's leadership structure is outlined in Appendix 2.

Our core portfolio covers consumer technology, games/entertainment, music, creative/design, photography and history and science. 48 million users globally access Future's digital sites each month, we have over 200,000 digital subscriptions worldwide, and a combined social media audience of 20+ million followers (a list of our titles/products can be found under Appendix 1 & 1a.). For the purpose of this statement, Future's 'responsible person' is Julian March, Managing Director, Media Brands.

Editorial Standards

Through our expertise in five portfolios, Future produces engaging, informative and entertaining content to a high standard. The business is driven by a core strategy - 'Content that Connects' - that has been in place since 2014. This puts content at the heart of what we do, and is an approach we reiterate through staff communication.

In creating content that connects, Future takes all reasonable and appropriate steps to verify what we publish. Such steps include double sourcing where necessary, and rigorous scrutiny of information and sources to ensure the accuracy of the articles we publish.

Editorial process for contentious issues involves second reading by editorial. Pre-vetting of articles by Future's in-house legal team is available for any concerns. External advice is sought for contentious issues.

Licenses and consents are obtained prior to publication save where use of material falls within an exemption to copyright law (e.g. fair dealing).

Future does not have internal manuals, codes or guidance used by our journalists. However, Future refers to the Editors' Code of Practice as the basis for its editorial standards.

Complaints Procedure

Future would seek guidance from IPSO regarding serious and bespoke complaints that go beyond run-of-the-mill customer queries and issues that we have no precedent in dealing with.

To date we haven't sought pre-publication guidance from IPSO, but would have no hesitation in doing so if advice was required on interpreting the Editors' Code of Practice or understanding the public interest exception.

Editorial complaints are dealt with at a 'local' level, i.e. on a brand-by-brand basis, to ensure the query or complaint is kept close to the expertise. Where necessary, complaints are escalated to the relevant Content Head and, if necessary, at executive team level. However, so far in 2017, we recorded no such instances of editorial complaints. Any issues related to copyright infringement are dealt with by Future's in-house legal and rights teams, and referred to external advisors where necessary.

Pursuant to the supplementary requirement issued by IPSO in December 2014, we have added information in the About Us pages (eg. http://www.techradar.com/news/about-us) on all our sites which inform our users:

1. that we are regulated by IPSO
2. that we abide by the Editor's Code of Practice
3. of the email address for each site to use in case of a complaint
4. of the ways in which they can contact IPSO for more information about IPSO or the Editor's Code.

In response to the supplementary requirement issued by IPSO in February 2016, we acknowledge that before making any substantive changes to an online article or other material in response to a complaint, editorial staff archive a complete copy of the article or other material under complaint. (This does not include trivial changes, such as changes to spelling or grammar.) The archived copy must be retained for a minimum of four months from the date of the amendment to ensure that IPSO has access to a copy of the material under complaint, should it subsequently receive a complaint.

Training Process

Where appropriate, Future's legal and rights team meet with new joiners on a one-to-one basis to run through the basic principles of copyright law and our contracts. We've also held 'group' rights-refreshers with specific teams where issues have arisen, e.g. on GamesRadar US/UK and Total Film. We are working through all editorial teams to make sure everyone has clear guidance.

Alongside this we have;
- been working through all the IP-related guidance notes we have and updating them to circulate to teams as part of the refresher process
- started updating our existing formal copyright/IP presentation, with the intention of starting a more formal rights training programme.

As Future has restructured and downsized, there has been an inevitable impact on our ability to deliver Libel, Defamation and Trademark training (in the past it has been delivered by an external specialist). However, we are currently working with an external supplier to provide a refresher course for long-standing staff, as well as an overview course for new starters. We anticipate this being delivered in April/May 2017

Compliance Record

Since Future submitted its previous statement (for 2015), there was one complaint against Future ruled on by IPSO's Complaints Committee:

A complaint was made by ███████████ against Future's PC Gamer, alleging bias towards Valve's Steam gaming platform.

10th November 2016: Reference IPSO: #09547-16#
Responding to ███████ ███████████, IPSO Complaints Officer wrote: "On receipt of a complaint, IPSO's Executive staff reviews it to ensure that it falls within our remit, and represents a possible breach of the Editors' Code of Practice. The Executive has now completed an assessment of your complaint under the terms of the Code. Having considered the points you have raised in full, we have concluded that your complaint does not raise a possible breach of the Code."

Appendix

1. List of Publications, Products & Events

VERTICAL	DIGITAL	MAGAZINES	EVENTS
Technology	techradar.com itproportal.com maximumpc.com gizmodo.co.uk lifehacker.co.uk	Linux Format Linux Format Special MacFormat Mac|Life (US) Maximum PC (US) Mobile Choice PiUser T3 Windows Help & Advice	The T3 Awards Mobile Industry Awards Mobile Choice Awards isellmobile Awards
Gaming	pcgamer.com gamesradar.com kotaku.com	PC Gamer PC Gamer (US edition) Gamesmaster Gamester Presents: Minecraft Official PlayStation Magazine Official Xbox Magazine Official Xbox Magazine (US edition) Edge Retro Gamer GamesTM	The PC Gamer Weekender The PC Gaming Show The Golden Joysticks
Creative Design	creativebloq.com	Photoshop Creative Computer Arts 3D World 3D Artist Web Designer Net ImagineFX Paint & Draw	Generate London Generate NY Generate San Francisco Brand Impact Awards
Music	musicradar.com teamrock.com	Acoustic Acoustic Magazine Bass Guitar Magazine Classic Rock Computer Music Future Music Guitarist Guitarist Presents Guitarist Presents Blues Guitar Techniques Metal Hammer Prog Rhythm Total Guitar	London Acoustic Show London Bass Guitar Show London Drum Show The Golden Gods Prog Rock Awards Metal Hammer Awards
Photography	digitalcameraworld.com	Digital Camera PhotoPlus N-Photo	The Photography Show

		Professional Photography Digital Photographer	
Field Sports		Airgun Shooter Bow International iShoot Shoot In Scotland Shooting Club Directory Shooting Industry Directory Sporting Rifle	
Film & TV		Horrorville SFX Total Film Comic Heroes	
History & Science		How It Works All About Space World of Animals All About History History of War History of Royals Real Crime	
Adult Colouring		Me Time Colour Calm Dot to Dot	

1a. Bookazines Series published in 2016

Mac|Life Special
Maximum PC Special
Technology Guru Guides
Technology Made Simple
Technology Tips Guide
Technology Handbooks
SFX Bookazine
SFX Special
Total Film Bookazine
Guitar Specials
Guitarist Presents
Hi-Tech Bookazine
Musician's Handbook
Rhythm Bookazine
Airgun Shooter Handbook
Sporting Rifle Handbook
Digital Camera Specials
Photography Masterclass
Photography Handbook
ImagineFX Bookazines
Gamesradar Plus Presents
Golden Joysticks Presents
Gamesmaster Presents
Edge Specials
Colour Calm Dot to Dot
Me Time
Outdoor Photography
Paint & Draw Specials
PC Gamer Bookazine

Curious Minds
SmartTouch
LearnIt
NextTech
Let's Make

2. Executive Leadership Team

Exec Leadership Team

Zillah Byng-Thorne
Chief Executive

Julian March
Managing Director
Media

Claire
MacLellan
Managing
Director
Media Services

Ben Greenish
Managing
Director
B2B

Aaron Asadi
Creative Director -
Magazines

Marco Peroni
Finance &
Operations
Director

Penny
Ladkin-Brand
Chief Financial
Officer

Kevin Li-Ying
Chief Technology
Officer

Jason Kemp
eCommerce &
Trading
Director

Neville Daniels
Managing
Director
Australia