

# **Annual statement to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO)**

**From: Independent News & Media (NI)**

*Period covered: January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018*

## **Introduction**

Independent News & Media (INM) is the largest newspaper publisher in Northern Ireland, with offices at Belfast Telegraph House, 33 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast BT1 3BG. The company publishes the Belfast Telegraph and Sunday Life newspapers, which circulate in Northern Ireland, the associated website [www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk) and a digital edition of the Belfast Telegraph. It also publishes a range of other digital products, including [NIJobFinder.co.uk](http://NIJobFinder.co.uk) and [PropertyNews.com](http://PropertyNews.com).

In February 2016, INM purchased Greer Publications and its stable of business-to-business and lifestyle magazines, including Northern Woman, Ulster Business, Ulster Grocer and Hospitality Review NI. The company is also a leading commercial printer, printing and distributing newspapers, including UK national titles, across Ireland.

INM is part of Dublin-based Independent News & Media, publishers of the Irish Independent and other titles in the Republic of Ireland.

INM's responsible person for IPSO is Associate Editor Martin Hill, who compiled this report.

## **Our editorial standards**

INM fully subscribes to the principles of UK industry best practice, including IPSO's advice and guidance. Editorially, our guiding documents are the Editors' Code of Practice, along with the Editors' Codebook, and training is given to journalists (including on recognised journalism courses).

The latest version of the Editors' Code and Editors' Codebook (January 2018) has been circulated to all INM journalists and they have been reminded of the existence of a "whistleblowers hotline" for anyone who feels that they have been asked to carry out an unethical instruction.

At a corporate level, our guiding principles are contained in the group-wide policy document, INM Editorial Code of Practice (updated May 2018), a copy of which is attached with this report (*see attachment 1*). This policy document sets out the standards of behaviour expected of all INM employees and includes an ethics telephone hotline for staff.

Both INM titles are happy to seek both pre- and post-publication guidance from IPSO. Senior staff have been issued with daytime and out-of-hours phone numbers, in particular for pre-publication guidance, should it be required.

Editorial managers are expected to have detailed legal, ethical and regulatory knowledge.

## **Verification of stories**

This follows the standard journalistic model:

1 Information is gathered and evaluated;

2 The editorial value is considered and a legal/ethical/public interest view is taken, as required;

3 A decision is made on whether to proceed with the preparation of the story;

4 If at all possible (which it is in almost all cases), the subject of the allegation is given a chance and adequate time to respond, and;

5 Depending on the subject's response, a decision is then made on the merits of publication and whether the article meets the legal, ethical, editorial and commercial tests for publication.

INM also employs an Editorial Legal Counsel, Paul McDonnell, a former partner in the respected Belfast law firm McKinty & Wright, who has been involved in many of the leading media law cases in Northern Ireland over the past few decades.

Mr McDonnell provides the Belfast Telegraph and Sunday Life with specific pre- and post-publication legal advice on matters such as defamation, privacy, contempt, copyright and intellectual property rights and assists with responses to complaints.

He is regularly called upon, particularly to advise on difficult, or challenging, stories and is, naturally, given full details on the nature of information gathered and all attempts at verification. Final authority for publication rests, of course, with title editors.

In the small number of occasions where covert filming is deployed — mainly by Sunday Life journalists — editorial managers are also expected to take special cognisance of rules and sensitivities and to debate and record reasons why covert filming is permissible. In the period covered by this report (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018), there were four instances when covert filming was used, only two of which resulted in publication.

### **Editors' Code of Practice: relevant clauses**

#### **10\* Clandestine devices and subterfuge**

i) The press must not seek to obtain or publish material acquired by using hidden cameras or clandestine listening devices; or by intercepting private or mobile telephone calls, messages or emails; or by the unauthorised removal of documents or photographs; or by accessing digitally-held information without consent.

ii) Engaging in misrepresentation or subterfuge, including by agents or intermediaries, can generally be justified only in the public interest and then only when the material cannot be obtained by other means.

## **The public interest**

There may be exceptions to the clauses marked \* where they can be demonstrated to be in the public interest. The public interest includes, but is not confined to:

- Detecting or exposing crime, or the threat of crime, or serious impropriety.
- Protecting public health or safety.
- Protecting the public from being misled by an action or statement of an individual or organisation.
- Disclosing a person or organisation's failure or likely failure to comply with any obligation to which they are subject.
- Disclosing a miscarriage of justice.
- Raising or contributing to a matter of public debate, including serious cases of impropriety, unethical conduct or incompetence concerning the public.
- Disclosing concealment, or likely concealment, of any of the above.

## **Case histories**

**1** In June 2018, Sunday Life sent a reporter equipped with a covert camera to the Sink the Ink tattoo parlour in Belfast following a tip-off from an ex-employee that an Ashraf Islam (formerly Mark Townley) was working as a manager there after his release from prison, where he served a three-year sentence for plotting to kill HRH Prince Harry.

Ashraf's background includes numerous convictions for fraud, including setting up a fake model agency which scammed teenage girls. The Muslim convert had also attempted to shoot a porn movie called Jesus Christ Porn Star.

We had been told he had been using a back room in the tattoo parlour to take erotic pictures (something he denied). The reporter posed as a potential customer to film Ashraf at the parlour.

The decision to approve subterfuge and use of clandestine filming was agreed by the Editor and senior editorial staff on the grounds of public interest. Given Ashraf's history of deception, we believed the following public interest arguments were engaged:

- Detecting the threat of crime, or serious impropriety/protecting health or safety/protecting the public from being misled.

We believed customers had a right to know of Ashraf's background and to be able to view an up-to-date photograph of him. The article appeared on June 3, 2018 (*see attachments 3 (i) & 3 (ii)*)

**2** On June 15, 2018, acting on tip-offs, we sent a reporter to a taxi firm in south Belfast. We had been told a UVF cocaine-dealing racket was being run from the firm late at night. The reporter posed as a customer.

The Editor and senior editorial staff took the decision to use subterfuge/clandestine cameras believing the following public interest arguments were relevant:

- Detecting or exposing crime, or the threat of crime, or serious impropriety.
- Protecting public health or safety.

In the event, we found no evidence of drug-dealing at the taxi firm, although alcohol was being sold from the (unlicensed) premises. No story was published.

3 On October 17, 2018, a reporter with a hidden recording device door-stepped IRA bomber Sean Kelly ahead of the 25th anniversary of Shankill bomb massacre of which he had been convicted.

When asked if he had anything to say to the families of the victims of the bombing, Mr Kelly replied: "F\*\*\* off. F\*\*\* off out of my road you." (see attachments 4 (i) & 4 (ii))

The Editor and senior staff took the decision to employ clandestine recording believing the following public interest argument was engaged:

- Raising or contributing to a matter of public debate.

Mr Kelly has appeared at anniversary events commemorating the death of his co-bomber, Thomas Begley, and is politically active with Sinn Fein. Ahead of the 25th anniversary event, at which Mr Kelly spoke, plans to commemorate Mr Begley were branded "sickening" and "beyond grotesque" by victims' campaigners.

A TV documentary filmed ahead of our doorstep also revealed how Shankill Road people had pulled badly injured Mr Kelly from the bomb wreckage, unaware he was one of the killers.

4 A reporter used a hidden camera recording device while researching a story about Samuel Madine for the edition of June 3, 2018. Mr Madine had been charged with supplying teeth-whitening products containing dangerous chemicals from his Belfast clinic.

He had previously pleaded guilty at a magistrate's court hearing in 2015 to impersonating a dentist and supplying teeth-whitening services. It appeared he was continuing to flout the relevant legislation at his Smile clinic.

The Editor's decision to secretly record Mr Madine was taken on the basis of the following public interest arguments:

- Detecting or exposing crime, or the threat of crime, or serious impropriety.
- Protecting public health or safety.
- Protecting the public from being misled by an action or statement of an individual or organisation.

In the event, due to circumstances beyond the reporter's control, no filming took place and no story appeared. (On May 1, 2019, Mr Madine pleaded guilty to a series of charges relating to the use and supply of "carcinogenic" tooth-whitening products at his clinic.)

In December 2017, INM appointed an Associate Editor, Martin Hill, who serves as a contact point for communications with IPSO and oversees the handling of IPSO and non-IPSO complaints by the Belfast Telegraph, Sunday Life, INM magazines and our online platforms to ensure that they are addressed consistently and correctly and that company policy is followed.

### **Conflict of interest/financial relationships**

INM's Editorial Code of Practice (*updated May 2018; see attachment 1*) contains the following clauses relating to transparency regarding financial relationships or conflicts of interest involving the editorial process:

#### **26 Reviewing products or services**

We should make every effort to ensure there is no element of unqualified "plugging" when we review products or services. Reviews must be seen to be a service to the reader. Advertorial-style material should be indicated. Negative reviews should be rigorously backed up by evidence.

#### **27 Conflicts of interest**

There must never be any suggestion that personal, commercial, business, financial or other interests have influenced INM editorial decisions. Journalists have a duty to pay their own way. They should accept no free trips or gifts from sources other than nominal courtesies such as business lunches or seasonal gifts. Transparency is important and if in doubt run past your Editor.

We should not normally accept expenses-paid trips unless they are the only way to cover a significant event, or they are for travel articles, or to speak at/address bona fide media, or related, conferences. Any proposal to accept an expenses-paid trip must be referred to a senior editorial figure and approved in writing.

Under no circumstances should anyone working for INM accept personal benefits from suppliers, or accept goods, or services which could be construed as inducements.

These situations can be covered by explanatory letters and the gifts can be returned, or redirected to appropriate charities.

Journalists are required to declare any personal interest, or relationships, which may affect their work. Interests should be declared on a Declaration of Personal Interest Form and given to the Managing Editor. In relation to particular stories, journalists must discuss any possible conflicts of interest with their Editor.

### **Our complaints handling process**

Complaints can be accepted in writing, by email, or by telephone, to reporters, senior executives, the editorial secretary, or directly to editors. Reporters must escalate the

complaint to an editorial manager as soon as possible. A complaints protocol exists, which provides written instructions to staff on how to deal with complaints (*see attachment 2*).

### **Editorial complaints route (Belfast Telegraph/digital platforms)**

Complaints are directed to the Editor, who delegates the day-to-day investigatory and procedural work to the Associate Editor. This pattern is mirrored for both IPSO and non-IPSO complaints, where the Associate Editor, Martin Hill, will investigate and report to the editor.

Remedies can include corrections and verbal, or written, communications to the complainant defending, or apologising, as appropriate. We still find that many complainants go directly to lawyers, leading to a relatively high number of letters of claim.

### **Editorial complaints route (Sunday Life)**

The system is similar to the Belfast Telegraph's, although the Editor and Head of News are the key figures.

### **Editorial complaints route (INM magazines)**

The system is similar to the Belfast Telegraph's, although the individual magazine editors and the Associate Editor are the key figures.

Since Paul McDonnell's appointment as Editorial Legal Counsel, he has assumed responsibility for drafting responses both to complainants and to IPSO to ensure a consistency of approach to independent regulation across all INM titles and platforms.

### **Records of editorial complaints and their outcomes**

All IPSO complaints and their outcomes are recorded on title complaints registers (*see attachments 5, 6 & 7*) and all legal complaints are recorded on a single legal provisions risk register. A non-IPSO complaints file is maintained by the Belfast Telegraph, which outlines non-IPSO/non-legal complaints received and actions taken.

### **How we seek to resolve editorial complaints**

Wherever possible, complaints are sought to be resolved by agreement with the complainant. Where this is not possible, the complaint is advised about IPSO, its work and given its contact details.

## **What information we provide to readers, and where, about internal and IPSO complaints processes**

Both the Belfast Telegraph and Sunday Life carry details of how to make a complaint on page two of each edition, which also sets out contact details for IPSO and explains the IPSO process. INM magazines carry this information on the title/contents page.

Online, every webpage also features a “complaints” button, which directs to a page entitled: “How to make a complaint — Belfast Telegraph and Sunday Life”. As with print, the emphasis of this is to complain first to the Editor. If the complainant remains unsatisfied, there is also a direct link to IPSO’s website.

## **Our training processes**

The following training was conducted in the relevant period:

All new editorial staff received a copy of the Editors’ Code of Practice and were advised of company policy on editorial standards. Existing staff were given the updated Editors’ Code in December 2017 and advised of the key changes that had been made. A link to the Code has also been added to the editorial section of the company intranet.

Legal refresher courses planned for July/August 2018 had to be deferred because of the incapacity of the tutor. The rescheduled seminars will now take place in June/July 2019 and will be led by Editorial Legal Counsel Paul McDonnell. The seminars will cover areas including: defamation; privacy; contempt of court; the implications of using social media platforms; INM’s liability in respect of user-generated content and; the implementation of the Editors’ Code of Practice with specific reference to provisions relating to children and social media.

## **Our record on compliance**

### **Belfast Telegraph**

The register of complaints against the Belfast Telegraph which were adjudicated upon in the period is attached (*see attachment 5*).

No complaints against the Belfast Telegraph were upheld in this period.

### **Sunday Life**

The register of complaints against Sunday Life which were adjudicated upon in the period is attached (*see attachment 6*).

No complaints against the Sunday Life were upheld in this period.



## **INM magazines**

The register of complaints against INM magazines which were adjudicated upon in the period is attached (*see attachment 7*).

No complaints against INM magazines were upheld in this period.

## **Attachments**

1 INM Editorial Code of Practice (updated May 2018)

2 INM protocol on receiving complaints

3 (i) & (ii); 4 (i) & (ii) Sunday Life case studies involving covert filming

5 Belfast Telegraph IPSO complaints adjudications January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

6 Sunday Life IPSO complaints adjudications January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

7 INM magazines IPSO complaints adjudications January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

## **INM Editorial Code of Practice**

Independent Newspapers and the Sunday World are pledged to be professional, courageous and relentless in their pursuit of truth and of news. They are also committed to independence, fairness and balance in informing people of events and issues about which they have a right to know.

An important goal of this code is to protect and foster the bond of trust between Independent News and Media (INM) in print and online and our audience.

The reputation of our brands is based on the editorial independence, integrity and high standards of our journalism. Full editorial control lies with the Editors.

The Editors and the editorial executives of the titles within the group are committed to defining, upholding and protecting those standards in every aspect of journalistic work. Central to those principles is the public's right to be informed on issues of public interest. This right is balanced by compliance with relevant legal codes, in particular the laws of defamation and data protection, and adherence to the principles of taste, balance, and accuracy.

Independent Newspapers and the Sunday World adhere to the Press Ombudsman/Press Council of Ireland Editors' Code of Practice (See Appendix 1).

Every staff member must read this document carefully and reflect on how it might apply to his or her duties.

The provisions presented here can offer only broad principles and some examples. No written document could anticipate every possibility. We expect staff members to consult the Group Managing Editor, Editors or other senior staff if they have any doubts about any particular situation covered by this document.

INM believes that its staff share the values this code is intended to protect. It will be the policy of the company to try to resolve any differences of opinion or concerns over the application of these values through discussion. Nevertheless, INM will view any deliberate violation of this code as serious and this may be the subject of a formal investigation.

### **1. General**

Journalists have a duty to observe and comply with the full letter and spirit of this Code of Conduct in the performance of duties for and in the name of Independent News and Media. Journalists are expected to exhibit a high standard of propriety, integrity, efficiency and competence in all dealings.

### **2. Accuracy, distinguish fact from comment**

Journalists must strive to be accurate and establish the facts of circumstances. Stories must be well sourced, based on sound evidence, thoroughly tested and presented in language which distinguishes clearly between comment, conjecture and fact. Unfounded speculation should be avoided.

### **3. Fact checking**

Journalists must check and verify information, facts and documents. Vigilance and factchecking should be applied to information sources, particularly those researched on the internet. This may include confirming with an individual or organisation that they posted

online material and satisfying yourself that it is accurate. Online sources, while useful, should not be the sole source of information and should be treated with appropriate caution. The important thing to remember is that when you are dealing with facts, you either have the full facts or you don't. If you have a doubt, always check it out. You can never, ever assume.

#### 4. Hear the other side

It is a basic tenet of good and responsible journalism to put any critical or damaging claim or allegation to the subject before publication. This requirement will also assist in defending any defamation action.

Where allegations are being made, the individual or organisation concerned should always be given a fair opportunity to respond to the allegations before publication.

Journalists should always describe the allegations in sufficient detail to enable an informed response. They should also give sufficient time for a response. The response should be reflected fairly and accurately. You may not get one. You may even get an emphatic denial which may give you pause for thought. Records should be kept of attempts to get a reply if one is not forthcoming.

There may be circumstances where getting a response is not feasible, practical or realistic. There must be strong reasons for believing that the subject matter is sufficiently newsworthy and in the public interest to justify publication in the absence of a response. In such cases, the Editor or Managing Editor must always be consulted.

#### 5. Opinions

Journalists have a right to trenchant opinions on matters of public interest. However, journalists have a duty to ensure that when they comment on a matter of public interest that such comment is based upon facts which are either set out in the article or are otherwise known to the reader.

Writers of comment need to be aware that the rules about getting facts right apply to them as much as other writers. If relying on facts from other publications, always seek verification that they are true or that the circumstances have not changed.

#### 6. Misleading readers

Journalists should never distort known facts, present invented material as fact, or knowingly do anything to mislead our readers or audience.

Journalists should ensure that any digital editing of photographs does not distort the meaning of events, alter the impact of genuine material, or otherwise materially mislead readers. Headlines and introductions to stories should accurately represent the body of the story.

#### 7. Archived content

When archive material is used, journalists are responsible for ensuring that no legal issue has arisen in respect of that material and that it has not been overtaken by later events. Photos of individuals taken from archive must be checked to confirm identity. Therefore, always double-check captions and verify the people in the photos are actually those named in the caption.

## 8. Researching online

You should be cautious how you use the internet and social media for both sourcing and verifying material for a story in terms of trustworthiness, identification in the case of a photo/video and also the copyright related to material. Apply the same rigorous standards to verifying information on social media as elsewhere.

When using a picture from social media relating to something controversial, defamatory or involving a tragedy (e.g. someone who has died), it is INM policy that unless identified by three people, including a member of the close family (in relation to a tragic event), that it should not be used.

## 9. Legal checking

Journalists should not publish anything which is defamatory, in contempt of court, in breach of statute, copyright or privacy or which exposes INM to any other possible legal repercussions. Journalists must always seek advice from our lawyers if in doubt about a story.

Any decision to proceed with a story, where legal concerns have been expressed, must be referred to the most senior editorial level. There may be occasions when a story is legally safe to publish but raises editorial issues, such as taste, prurience, abuse etc In these circumstances, INM seeks to strike a reasonable balance between public interest and ethical issues. While lawyers can therefore offer legal advice, the final decision remains an editorial one. The duty for the facts to be right rests with the journalist.

Always be rigorous in your fact-checking. Do not rush to publish if you have any doubt. Always consult with your editorial manager if you have concerns.

## 10. Complaints

Journalists should inform their Editor and the Group Managing Editor immediately of any complaint which they receive either verbally or in writing. If you are in direct contact with the complainant, for example, on the phone, be courteous and avoid confrontation. You should also take a written note. Do not offer an apology or anything which could amount to an admission of liability in any subsequent legal action.

## 11. Accountability/corrections

Journalists should be open to admitting mistakes. Where significant mistakes are highlighted, it is our policy to acknowledge those errors at the earliest opportunity in our Corrections and Clarifications columns. All corrections should be referred to the Group Managing Editor for approval.

## 12. Privacy

Privacy is a human right, protected as a personal right in the Irish Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Journalists should respect privacy and should not infringe it without legally justified cause or reason. Private behaviour, correspondence and conversation should not be brought into the public domain unless it is of clear public interest. It is essential, in order to exercise a right of freedom of expression and information, that we work within a framework which respects an individual's privacy and treats people fairly while investigating, reporting on, commenting and commentating on matters which are in the public interest to report, comment or reveal.

Public persons are entitled to privacy. However, where a person holds public office, deals with public affairs, follows a public career, or has sought or obtained publicity for his activities, publication of relevant details of his/her private life and circumstances may be justifiable where the information revealed relates to the validity of the person's conduct, the credibility of his/her public statements, the value of his/her publicly expressed views or is otherwise in the public interest.

Individuals must not be photographed or filmed in places where they have a 'reasonable expectation of privacy' unless justified by the public interest. Each case must be judged on its merits. The location, while relevant, is not itself the sole test for an expectation of privacy. The context of the story may render a situation one where an expectation of privacy may not apply. Equally, being in a public place can give rise to an expectation of privacy where intrinsically personal matters are involved. Seek advice from company lawyers or the Managing Editor if in doubt.

### 13. Reporting suffering and distress

We must always balance the public interest in full and accurate reporting against the need to be compassionate and to avoid any unjustified infringement of privacy when we report accidents, disasters, disturbances or war or instances where people are involved in distressing situations. In cases involving personal grief or shock, enquiries and approaches must be made with sympathy and discretion.

We should not report at private funerals if the family has requested privacy. There must be a clear public interest if we decide to proceed against requests for privacy.

### 14. Children

Journalists must always have regard for the vulnerability of children.

Journalists should seek the consent of parents or legal guardians or persons in similar positions – teachers etc – before interviewing children under 16. Any decision to proceed without parental consent is normally only editorially justified on the basis of a clear public interest, or the freedom of a child or young person to express themselves in noncontentious ways. The onus is on the journalist to establish an accurate age.

Young people should be free to complete their time at school without unnecessary intrusion. The fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian must not be used as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life.

### 15. Children (photos/video)

When photographing children under the age of 16, it is imperative that no room is left for doubt about whether consent has been granted and you should always seek clarity before photographing/filming, if there is any doubt. Always bear in mind the context of the situation, whether it is likely to be in any way controversial. Under-16s must not be photographed or filmed on subjects about their welfare – or the welfare of other children – without the consent of their parent/guardian or someone in loco parentis.

Be particularly vigilant when photographing children at times of grief or at funerals.

### 16. Harassment

Journalists must not engage in intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit. They must not persist in questioning, phoning, pursuing or photographing people once asked to stop,

unless there is a good reason not to do so. In this case, the decision must lie with the Editor after all the facts of the case have been attained by him/her (the Editor).

#### 17. Court cases

When writing about court cases involving children or any aspect of family law or sexual offences, be aware of the law and any specific restrictions. Sometimes writers who have not been at court will comment on these cases or bring them into related stories. It is always their ongoing responsibility to check on restrictions. Journalists covering court cases should always make the news desks, Head of News and the Managing Editor aware of any specific reporting restrictions issued by a judge.

#### 18. Your use of social media

INM encourages its journalists to engage with social media and blogs as they may assist our titles and websites in gaining exposure and growing our audience. However, it is essential that journalists adhere to the same standards on social media as they would in publishing material in one of our print titles or websites. Despite the apparent informality of such online activities, they are publications in law and are subject to the same laws concerning defamation among other things. Our journalists should not promote political views or make offensive comments as these can undermine our reputation.

Anyone who breaches our social media policy may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

#### 19. Subterfuge

For certain stories where there is a clear public interest and when dealing with allegations of serious criminal, fraudulent, unlawful or anti-social behaviour, it may occasionally be acceptable to use subterfuge. Subterfuge should be the minimum necessary in proportion to the subject matter. Any proposal to use subterfuge must be referred to your Editor and the Managing Editor in advance.

#### 20. Impartiality

Journalists should seek to reflect all opinions by exploring a range of conflicting views.

Journalists should be objective and even-handed in their approach.

INM will strive to reflect a wide range of opinion in its publications, and explore a range of conflict of views to allow expression to its wide readership market. INM exercises its editorial freedom to produce content about any subject at any point on the spectrum of debate as long as there are good editorial reasons for so doing. INM's titles and websites will sometimes need to report on or interview people whose views may cause offence to our readers. This would be the subject of a clear decision from the Editor that the public interest outweighs the possible offence which may be caused. It is the policy of the titles to allow a forum for the expression of opposing views either through editorial columns or Letters to the Editor.

#### 21. Copy approval

The general rule is that no one should be given the right to prior copy approval. Doing otherwise, no matter how trivial the subject matter of the article, impinges on the freedom of the press. On occasion, we may allow people to see copy or quotes but we are not required to change the copy. In all cases such as this, consult with the Head of Content or Managing Editor.

## 22. Legal

The Republic of Ireland has the harshest defamation law regime in Europe. The consequences of losing or settling actions are very expensive and damaging commercially and reputationally. Even where an action may seem to have little grounds, if our facts are wrong, the costs of fighting the case are often prohibitive. All journalists need to be very familiar with defamation law and adhere to the fundamental tenet of journalism: check your facts.

## 23. Picture selection

NEVER ever take a chance on a picture. Too many defamations and embarrassing mistakes are caused by picture errors. Never select a picture for use where the subject(s) have not been identified and confirmed. ALWAYS recheck pictures of people identified as criminals, relatives or associates of criminals, subject of legal proceedings, leaving or entering court, associated with controversial circumstances such as bankruptcy, corruption etc. Agency pictures need to be carefully checked as well.

Never use a picture of a crime scene or contentious situation without checking that the location identified is absolutely accurate.

## 24. Mind your language

We should never casually use words likely to offend in our journalism. Use swear words only when necessary – and in consultation with senior editors. The stronger the swear word, the more you should think about it. Avoid using in headlines, pull quotes, Tweets or standfirsts. Asterisks may be used where a particularly offensive word is deemed necessary to the story.

## 25. Suicide / attempted suicide

When reporting suicide, care should be taken to avoid excessive detail about the method used. Please note that the term 'commit suicide' is considered offensive by some people. See also and familiarise yourself with the Editors' Code of Practice (Appendix I).

## 26. Reviewing products or services

We should make every effort to ensure there is no element of unqualified 'plugging' when we review products or services. Reviews must be seen to be a service to the reader. Advertorial style material should be indicated. Negative reviews should be rigorously backed up by evidence.

## 27. Conflicts of interest

There must never be any suggestion that personal, commercial, business, financial or other interests have influenced INM editorial decisions. Journalists have a duty to pay their own way. They should accept no free trips or gifts from sources other than nominal courtesies such as business lunches or seasonal gifts. Transparency is important and if in doubt run past your Editor.

We should not normally accept expenses paid trips unless they are the only way to cover a significant event or they are for travel articles or to speak at/address bona fide media or related conferences. Any proposal to accept an expenses paid trip must be referred to a senior editorial figure and approved in writing.

Under no circumstances should anyone working for INM accept personal benefits from suppliers or accept goods or services which could be construed as inducements.

These situations can be covered by explanatory letters and the gifts can be returned or redirected to appropriate charities.

Journalists are required to declare any personal interest or relationships which may affect their work. Interests should be declared on a Declaration of Personal Interest Form and given to the Managing Editor. In relation to particular stories, journalists must discuss any possible conflicts of interest with their Editor.

Journalists may not work without permission for any person or body except INM. Any payment must be approved by the Editor/Managing Editor/Editor-in-Chief. They must seek the approval of their Editor/Managing Editor for any work done with other departments in INM outside Editorial. The right to engage in freelance work for publications that compete with INM is subject to management approval in every case.

#### 28. Foreign assignments

Editorial staff on trips for INM to dangerous parts of the world or countries where journalists can be at risk must obtain clear written permission from their head of department or editor on the scope of their task, what is expected of them and where they are going before leaving Ireland. Please consult with the Department of Foreign Affairs website which regularly updates travel advice on countries (<https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/>). Any change to the work you are being asked to do will be discussed and agreed with you and will also be put in writing so there can be no confusion.

The reason for this approach is because we place the safety of our staff at the heart of all we do. Operational decisions are based on a clear assessment of risk and journalists should be particularly cognisant of the risk in countries where there is armed conflict or a significant terrorist threat. The Managing Editor and/or HR must be made aware of all foreign trips for insurance purposes. Under no circumstances should staff unilaterally decide to venture beyond their brief by straying from one country to another. This could unwittingly place themselves and others in danger.

#### 29. Confidentiality

Journalists must not disclose confidential information about the operations, policies or plans of INM. Disclosing confidential information to competitors will be regarded as a serious breach of the Code and will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

#### 30. Radio and TV

Journalists who are asked to guest on radio and TV programmes should discuss the opportunity with the Editor. In deciding whether to make a radio, television or internet appearance, a journalist should consider its probable tone and content to make sure they are consistent with INM standards. They should not say anything that could not appear under their bylines. Journalists must always keep in mind that their first duty is to their title and its readers or audience. Under no circumstances should they ever scoop their newspaper or website by disclosing information which has not yet been submitted for publication.



### 31. Speeches, seminars and other appearances

Journalists should only make speeches and undertake other appearances subject to prior approval of their Editor, Head of News or Editor-in-Chief. They should not write for any other publications/websites unless this is approved by their Editor.

### 32. Business journalists

Business and financial journalists are required to disclose all financial holdings or investments and any other financial interests or dealings by them and their family.

Journalists should not write about shares or securities if they know that they, their partners or close family have a significant financial interest unless they have disclosed this information to their Editor or Editor-in-Chief.

Journalists must not use for their own profit any privileged information they receive in advance of its general publication, nor should they pass on such information to others.

To maintain their integrity, journalists should not speculate by buying and selling shares on a short-term basis if they have written about them recently or know that they will be doing so in the near future.

It is essential that financial journalists do not promote, or give the impression of promoting, any business or financial service. However, where editorially justified, references may be made to particular services, businesses or branded products. In some cases, it will be editorially relevant to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of a financial service or product. Financial journalists must always guard against the impression of promoting or plugging particular products or services.

The onus is on the journalist to let INM know if they have any interests or relationships which could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

### 33. Confidential sources

Quotes with names attached always carry more weight. Journalists have a moral and professional obligation to protect confidential sources when anonymity is a pre-condition for the story. Care should be taken to ensure that the identities of any confidential sources are protected and do not appear in any notes that might become the subject of a court order or can be seen by third parties. When we agree to protect the identity of the source, that identity will not be made known to anyone outside INM. Before any information is accepted without full attribution, however, reporters must make every reasonable effort to get it verified. This also applies to tip-offs from unknown or criminal sources where a journalist should exercise particular caution. Efforts should be made to get the information elsewhere and, if possible in the context of the article, a reason for protecting the source's identity should be included in the story.

When our journalists undertake to protect sources, they must establish how far the protection is required: Is it understood that the writer could be challenged to identify the source in court? Will the source give evidence if the paper is sued?

### 34. Note-taking/recording

Journalists must either record or take accurate, reliable and contemporaneous notes of all significant conversations and other relevant information. Any such notes or recordings which provide the basis for a story must be kept for a minimum of two years. When anonymity is essential and has been offered, great care should be taken that no document, computer file or other record could identify a source. Journalists may use personal recording

devices to record telephone conversations with individuals in the interests of accuracy. There is no legal obligation to inform the other side that they are being taped if the journalist is the other party to the conversation – however, if specifically asked, the journalist should confirm that the conversation is being recorded. Recordings used in this way should be retained for a minimum of two years. Any request for notes to be handed over in legal proceedings needs to be approved by the Editor and Managing Editor.

### 35. Publication of the decision of the Press Ombudsman

When requested or required by the Press Ombudsman and/or the Press Council to do so, INM shall publish the Ombudsman's decision in relation to a complaint with due prominence in accordance with the publication guidelines specified by the Press Ombudsman.

### 36. Attribution

Journalists should never use material from other publications without permission and credit. Where stories are 'rewrites' using material in other media, there should be proper accreditation and there should be no breach of copyright. Pictures should also be properly accredited in captions.

### 37. Payments

In general, INM does not pay for stories, except from bona fide freelance sources. Written approval must be obtained from the Group Editor-in-Chief or Group Managing Editor in any rare exceptions.

Please note that:

- Payment or offers of payment for stories, pictures or information, which seek to exploit a particular crime or to glorify or glamorise crime in general, must not be made directly or via agents to convicted or confessed criminals or to their associates – who may include family, friends and colleagues. The only exception to this is if it is approved by the Managing Editor and this would only be done if clearly in the public interest and unobtainable without such a payment.
- No payments should be made to serving public officials.

### 38. Data protection

INM, as a media organisation, and journalists who work on its behalf are data controllers because they decide how they will use the personal data that they hold about individuals. The Data Protection Commission is responsible for upholding the privacy rights of individuals in relation to the processing of their personal data. The equivalent body in the UK is the Information Commissioner's Office.

Journalists have a right to gather information and process it for journalistic purposes and have an exemption under data protection law to do so (Article 85 of the General Data Protection Regulation). This right should not be abused – the information gathered should not be used unless for the public interest and must be processed securely through the media organisation systems, processes and procedures. It should not be given to third parties unless for journalistic reasons.

Reasonable steps should be taken to ensure any personal data is processed securely and to prevent it being lost, stolen or misused. Steps should also be taken to delete personal data that is no longer needed.

Sometimes data protection is mistakenly used as a reason to deny journalists information. Remember that the law covers personal data, not all the data, and even personal data can be lawfully released in some circumstances. Any data protection issues should be referred to our legal advisers. If you lose any work device, notify [data.protection@inmplc.com](mailto:data.protection@inmplc.com).

#### 39. The right to erasure

Also known as, the 'right to be forgotten', provides individuals with the right to have personal data erased or amended if inaccurate. Newspaper websites are under no obligation to delete a story if it is still accurate – and often requests refer to internet search engines which have processed this data separately by deciding the order in which the information appears in search queries. However, discretion may be exercised in cases where deemed appropriate. All requests should be referred to the Group Managing Editor or designated deputy. The identity of the individual who made the request must be confirmed before proceeding to deletion.

#### 40. The public interest

The press has a right to freedom of expression and to impart and convey information freely. In many circumstances, the press will invoke the public interest as a reason for reporting.

The public interest includes, but is not confined to:

- Detecting or exposing crime or serious impropriety
- Exposing significantly anti-social behaviour
- Exposing corruption or injustice
- Exposing significant incompetence or negligence
- Protecting public health and safety
- Preventing the public from being misled
- Disclosing information that assists people to better understand or make decisions on matters of public importance

There is also a public interest in freedom of expression in itself. Also, it should be noted that exceptional public interest will need to be shown in cases involving children.



As part of our Ipso obligations it is vital that we record **all** the complaints we receive, along with details of how the complaint was handled.

Please complete this form and return to Margaret Thompson no later than **3pm** each Friday.

Thank you

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of complainant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/time received: \_\_\_\_\_

Format received in (*eg phone, email*): \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's phone number and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of complaint (*inc edition date, page number, headline, URL*):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Line manager notified (*y/n*): \_\_\_\_\_

Action taken: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complainant informed: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXCLUSIVE UNLIKELY JIHADIST, WANNABE PORN STAR**

# PRINCE PLOTTER EXPOSED

TARGET: Prince Harry with Meghan Markle on their wedding day



By Christopher Woodhouse

**A MUSLIM convert jailed for threatening to kill Prince Harry is now working at a popular Belfast tattoo parlour, Sunday Life can reveal.**

Bangor man Ashraf Islam, who calls himself Ash, has been keeping a low profile since his release from prison. But we tracked down the ex-British soldier and serial fraudster to a busy tattoo studio in the city centre.

A former staff member claimed Islam uses the back room to take erotic photographs and describes himself as a "god".

The ex-heroin junkie and would-be porn movie star and director also allegedly told staff to delete their social media profiles, encouraged them to go to a Buddhist temple and even followed one while she was out on a date.

Formerly known as Mark Townley, he served time for scamming people across the UK and Ireland, including teenage girls through a fake modelling agency.

When Sunday Life approached heavily-tattooed Islam at Sink The Ink on Belfast's Castle Street, he told our reporter the claims were "ridiculous". "I have never done one photoshoot in this building. It's just ridiculous," he said.

"There is nothing wrong, illegal or immoral about what I do. "I work very hard to have stronger integrity than anybody else because of all that bulls\*\*\*. There is nothing I do that does harm to anybody."

But he then tried to do a deal with this newspaper, promising to hand us copies of the footage of his police interview during the Prince Harry case if we did not reveal where he was working.

He also offered to reveal details of al-Qaida members he met in the Middle East and London.

A worried member of the public who knew Islam was working at the

MENACE: Ashraf Islam inside the Sink The Ink tattoo parlour and (right) a promotional shot for his planned porn movie



## Fantasiist behind 'kill Harry' conspiracy has city tattoo job

Sink The Ink studio also contacted this newspaper after learning of his notorious criminal past.

"He is in charge of taking people's personal details for bookings and comes into contact with a lot of impressionable young women," said the person, who did not wish to be named.

"Given he is a fraudster who scammed a lot of people and young women who wanted to be models, I think he should be exposed for who he really is."

One person who worked there but left the studio said Islam claimed he served in the marines and is now a Buddhist.

They said he made the staff do pull-ups and caused them to feel uncomfortable.

The source told this newspaper Islam described himself as a beauty pho-

tographer, but his portfolio contained pictures of scantily-clad women with whips and chains.

When a Sunday Life reporter called into the studio last week, Islam advised them on what sort of tattoos to get.

When asked about getting into modelling he told her: "I think there's a handful of people who do that kind of stuff, we have a guy who does photographs for us here."

Sunday Life asked Sink The Ink owners, brothers Darren and Brendan Livingstone, if they knew of Islam's past.

"We know everything about Ash's past — we know about everything the papers have ever written and everything from his side as well," said Darren.

"He still works with us because he is our friend. He has served his time."

Darren also claimed the rumours were being spread in a bid to damage the business.

Brendan added: "It's a very colourful past (but) fair play to him, he's honest about everything he did."

Islam made international headlines in May 2013 after he walked into a police station in west London and confessed he was going to gun down Prince Harry.

The middle-class grammar school boy turned militant Muslim made his admission the day after the murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in the city by Islamic fanatics.

Islam, who was booted out of the Army for misconduct, claimed he was going to murder the sixth in line to the throne because he "had blood on his hands" after serving in Afghanistan.

He planned to disarm one of the prince's bodyguards and use his gun to shoot Harry, but he handed himself in because he was nervous about his crackpot terror plot.

Police found a document on Islam's computer which read: "Aim for target. No civilians to be injured. Dress code is the biker look. Use low-calibre pistol at close range. Not to be viewed as Islamist extremist." Jailing him for three years in February 2014, Judge Richard McGregor-Johnson said he had given his plot "considerable thought" and though it was "vague and unlikely to succeed", he still presented a risk to the public.

Islam was due for release after 18 months but served extra time for committing a UK-wide fraud operation, eventually walking free in late 2015.

# AND SERIAL FRAUDSTER NOW WORKING WITH PUBLIC



**CONMAN:** Heavily-tattooed Islam works at Sink The Ink (below) in Belfast city centre

## Crackpot's 'colourful' background

By Christopher Woodhouse

ASHRAF Islam's new employers describe his past as "colourful", which to many readers of epic proportions.

The list of grammar school lads turned con-artist and porn star who have been jailed for threatening to kill a prince is a short one.

Born into a Christian family in middle-class Bangor, Islam's life story would end up in the recycling bin of any publisher if suggested as a plot by an aspiring author.

Despite a decent education at Bangor Grammar, Mark Townley, as he was then known, started to go off the rails at the age of 15, becoming heavily involved in theft.

Described as a "misfit" at school, one family friend previously told Sunday Life he once sold off motorbikes bought by his father for him and his brothers.

By the age of 17 he had left Northern Ireland for Scotland, where he fell into drugs and ended up as a heroin junkie, even though by this stage he was the



**EXTRAVERT:** Islam's facial tattoos

father of two children.

Islam returned home in 2002 and two years later set up what would become the first of an estimated 30 bogus companies in his decade-long career as a fraudster.

Somewhere along the way, he had a spell in the Army but ended up being drummed out for misconduct.

After getting out of jail in the summer of 2012, having served yet another sentence for fraud, he decided it was time he ventured into the adult entertainment industry.

While in Maghaberry Prison he had a jailhouse conversion to Islam and changed his name by deed poll to Ashraf Islam.

Not put off by his newfound Muslim faith, his debut adult film, which was apparently due to be released on Christmas Day, was titled Jesus Christ Porn Star, with him in the lead role as the son of God.

This devastated his devout Christian family, but worse was yet to come as the following year he walked into a police station in Hounslow, west London, and said he was plotting to kill Prince Harry.

When he was banged up for his royal death threat, he would have been more than familiar with the view from the wrong side of the bars.

Islam first fell foul of the law in 2004, aged just 21 and still known as Mark Townley, when he set up a money lending company, No Problem Loans, aided by loyalist paramilitaries.

Clients had to pay a £25 "arrangement" fee to get cash, but many were left empty-handed and he ended up getting a six-month suspended jail sentence for fraud.

Debt-ridden and facing threats to his life from loyalists, he resurfaced in Liverpool in 2006, styling himself as Tony Mandez, owner of the Mandez Corporation.

His sham security firm offered an intensive £250 training session and promised work in Iraq, with dozens of ex-squaddies signing up.

But when customers turned up to a

remote beach in Wales, they found there was no course and no sign of Islam.

When they tried to call him, a voice-mail message said he was dead and head office in Spain was in charge.

This scam was quickly rumbled and he ended up back in the dock, pleading guilty to 14 fraud charges and earning himself another suspended jail term.

Islam then hopped across the Irish Sea, arriving in Dublin, where he set up another money-spinning farce, Eire Models, in 2008.

He billed women and teenagers up to €300 to join the agency with a chance to appear on TV but the company soon folded and Islam fled back to Northern Ireland, this time to rip off charity and voluntary groups.

In 2009, he set up the National Task Force (NTF), which promised non-profit organisations across the UK equipment such as minibuses and boxing rings.

But none of the goods material-

ised and NTF owed an estimated £80,000 to charities, including one group that helps African children.

He was not brought to justice for this heartless scam until 2014, when he was already languishing in prison for his plan to murder Prince Harry.

Islam was given one year in jail and two on licence, with the prosecution estimating he pocketed £56,000 from the scheme.

During his sentencing, the court was told he had "significant" mental health issues, but Judge Patricia Smyth said this did not stop him knowing the difference between right and wrong.

After the NTF debacle, he once again gave his creditors the slip by changing

his name to Mark Hamill, after the Star Wars actor.

In 2011, he established photographic training firm Maria Marx Photography, which fleeced 26 photography students out of £150 each, for which he served 10 months in prison.

It was while serving this sentence that he converted to the Muslim faith, changing his name by deed poll from Mark Townley to Ashraf Islam.

After a brief spell in jail in 2012 for other fraud matters, he made his way to Dublin, falling in with an extremist Islamic group.

He then turned up at a relative's door and announced he was going to make an X-rated film, Jesus Christ Porn Star, which he planned to release on Christmas Day with him in the starring role.



CANDIDATE: Peter Casey

## Controversial Casey set for welfare row

By Sarah Henderson

BUSINESSMAN Peter Casey has decided to remain a candidate in the Irish presidential election after a week of controversy over his views on Travellers' culture and ethnicity.

In an article in the Sunday Independent today, Mr Casey refuses to apologise for his remarks, and attempts to open another front in his controversial campaign by describing Ireland as a "welfare dependent state" which he says has led to a "sense of entitlement that's become unaffordable".

Earlier in the week the former RTE Dragons' Den panellist said Travellers should not be recognised as an ethnic minority because they are "basically people camping in someone else's land".



LONG REIGN: Patsy Dan Rodgers

## Higgins leads tributes to Toraigh king

By Michael McHugh

IRISH President Michael D Higgins has led tributes to the "King of Toraigh Island".

Patsy Dan Rodgers has died at the age of 74 after a lifetime spent on the Donegal island. He was a musician and artist who became the tiny settlement's best-known resident. He had lived there from the age of four and campaigned against Government efforts to resettle islanders on the mainland.

President Higgins said: "His love for Toraigh Island and its people was evident and he was an outstanding ambassador for the island in all its diversity."

He was elected king in 1993 by his fellow islanders and welcomed visitors to the island, also known as Tory, which has a population of around 100.

## EXCLUSIVE THOSE AFFECTED BY SAVAGE SLAUGHTER

# Mass murderer's message to the victims of the Shankill bomb... 'F\*\*\* off'

By John Toner

**FURIOUS Shankill bomber Sean Kelly told our reporter to "f\*\*\* off" when asked if he had anything to say to the families of his victims on the 25th anniversary of the slaughter.**

Sunday Life approached the mass murderer at a north Belfast supermarket on Friday after survivors of the 1993 bombing told how he had been saved by relatives of the dead who pulled him from the rubble of Frizzell's fish shop.

They thought the IRA man was an innocent civilian, not knowing that he was responsible for the blast that killed nine along with his fellow bomber Thomas Begley.

But rather than thank rescuers for keeping him alive, an angry Kelly (44) scowled at our reporter: "F\*\*\* off. F\*\*\* off out of my road you."

The hated IRA member did apologise five years ago for his role in the murders of nine men, women and children, saying he was "truly sorry" for the loss of life.

Although claiming to be remorseful he has never revealed the names of the IRA gang who built the bomb and then sent him and Begley to the Shankill on a busy Saturday afternoon when the road was filled with families.

Kelly's silence comes in the face of new revelations from the families of those murdered about how rescuers saved his life.

Gina Murray, whose 13-year-old daughter Leanne was killed in the atrocity, tells a documentary to be broadcast on BBC One tomorrow night how he begged her for help.

She says: "There was a very loud explosion, I ran out and that's where I saw a man lying on the ground. He had blood on the side of his face, he said, 'Help me'."

"I think the shock of seeing him, not knowing where Leanne was, I just stood there and then he said again 'Help me'. As he said that a second time, a man came up to me and said, 'Are you injured?'. I went 'No, but my daughter is in the shop'. He then helped the fella that was lying on the ground. It turned out to be the bomber."

Graham Harrison (above), who was just 13 years old when he was severely injured in the Shankill bomb, revealed how he was placed in the same ambulance

as Kelly. Breaking down in tears, he sobs as he tells presenter Stephen Nolan in the show: "I remember my da saying (to a paramedic) look after them two, but I never knew it was Sean Kelly."

Taxi driver Charlie Butler, who lost three relatives in the massacre including his seven-year-old great-niece Michelle Baird, and who helped with the rescue operation, adds: "Sean Kelly doesn't know it, but he owes his life to the Shankill people."

But this is a fact that seems lost on Kelly whose behaviour since being freed early from prison under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement appears lacking in remorse.

In the past five years, he has been arrested in connection with two republican murders, and one attempted murder, before being freed without charge.

In 2016 Kelly was questioned by cops investigating the shotgun killing of Conor McKee (31) in the Oldpark area of north Belfast.

The recovering heroin addict was

blasted in the leg with a shotgun, causing him to bleed to death.

Prior to Conor's murder police believe Kelly had been agitating for him to be shot because of his drugs problem.

The previous year former members of the IRA executed ex-republican prisoner Kevin McGuigan outside his Short Strand home.

They blamed the dad-of-nine for involvement in the gangland-style murder of former Provo Belfast commander Jock Davison in May 2015. Kelly, who was friends with Davison, was arrested in connection with the McGuigan killing, but freed without charge.

In 2013 the Shankill bomber was lifted by cops investigating the attempted murder of minor criminal Padraig McAleenan who was shot multiple times by a gunman in the Ardoyne area.

Kelly had previously clashed with the teenager, who had been accused of robbing the supermarket in which he worked.

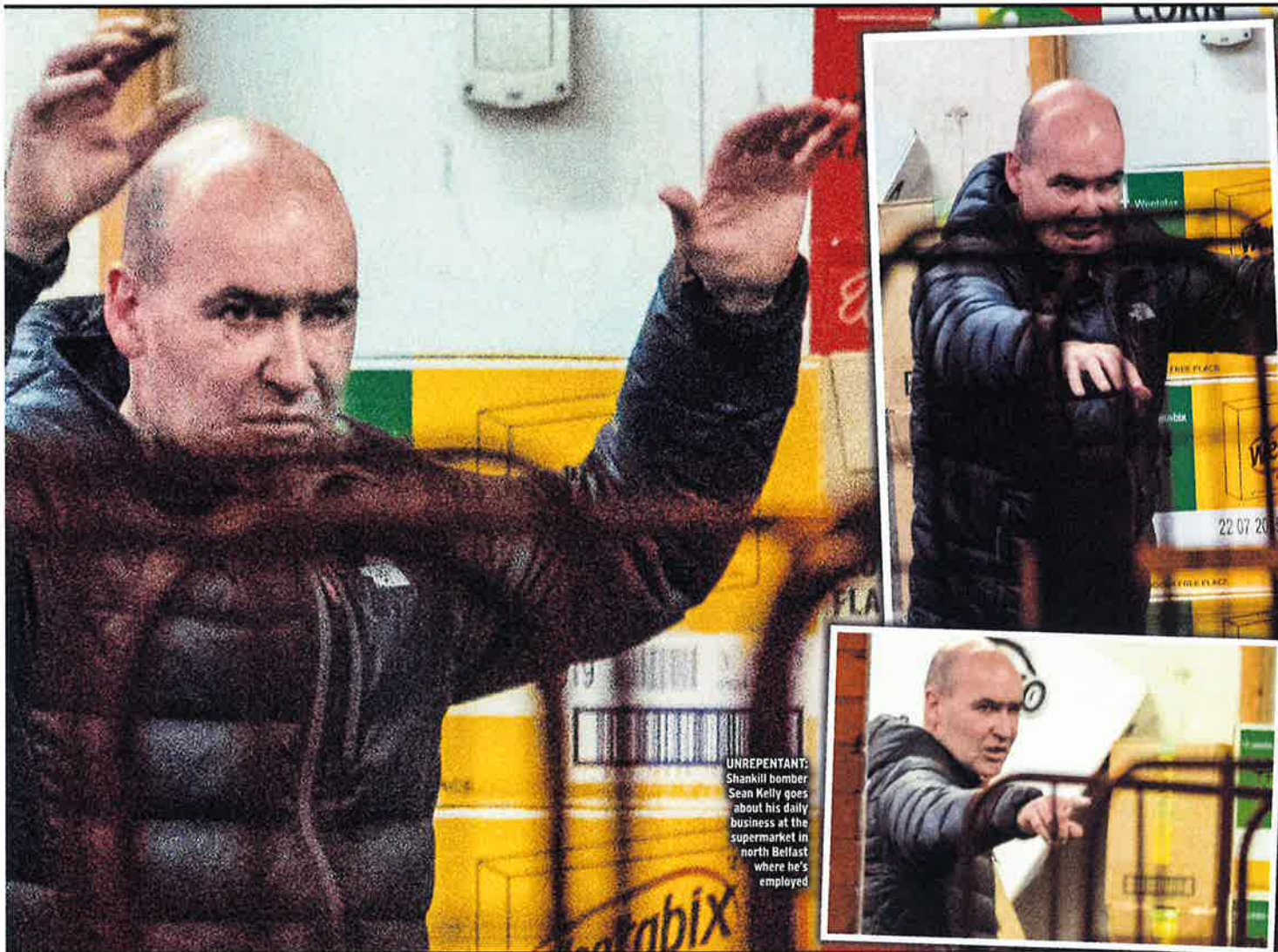
McAleenan, who died in 2015 aged just 20, told Sunday Life at the time: "If I tell you the name (of the person who ordered the shooting) the next bullet I get will be in the head, so I don't know who it was."

Despite being arrested in connection with two murders and one attempted murder Kelly, who is out of prison on a life licence, has never been returned to jail.



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# REFLECT ON THE DAY THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES FOREVER



**UNREPENTANT:** Shankill bomber Sean Kelly goes about his daily business at the supermarket in north Belfast where he's employed



**DISTRESSING:** Emergency services and volunteers search for survivors amid the rubble of the Shankill bomb

Senior PSNI officers have expressed deep concerns over his links to dissident republicans, who he remains on good terms with despite still being affiliated to the Provisional IRA.

After Kelly's arrest in connection with the Kevin McGuigan murder, police seized his clothes for forensic testing.

He was also out of work for a time leading to financial pressures, which were eased when dissidents held a collection for him raising £500.

Due to this act of generosity Kelly has, unlike other Sinn Fein activists in north Belfast, refused to condemn them.

The mass murderer remains a big supporter of the party and during last year's Westminster elections, canvassed on behalf of its north Belfast candidate — the solicitor John Finucane.

His role in the human rights lawyer's election campaign led to a wave of condemnation from unionists and the families of those killed and injured in the Shankill bomb.

Undeterred, Sinn Fein continue to use Kelly as an activist and he is often spotted at republican functions in north Belfast.

The only time he has spoken publicly

about the atrocity was on its 20th anniversary in 2013.

Addressing a commemoration for IRA bomber Thomas Begley, he told a crowd of republicans in Ardoyne: "I offer no excuse that will change how any of these innocent people and families will think about myself or Thomas or the IRA as a result of this operation."

"I am truly sorry for the loss of life and the injuries that were suffered that day and for the suffering the families have endured."

The 20th anniversary event was organised by Ardoyne republican Eddie Copeland, who was named in the House of Commons as having "probably planned the Shankill bomb".

Because of his notoriety, Kelly is often only seen in public when he is at work.

He has complained to friends in the past about being used as "cannon-fodder"; and like some Provos in Ardoyne believes that informants were involved in the Shankill bomb. Kelly refuses to speak to at least one individual who was heavily involved in planning the atrocity.


● The Shankill Bomb, Monday at 9pm on BBC One

## IRA CHIEF'S BOMB FURY PAGES 6-7



INM (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Belfast Telegraph IPSO complaints register 2018

IPSO complaint number, date, and name	Details of complaint	Editor's Code clause	How the complaint was dealt with	Outcome
<p><i>Belfast Telegraph/Sunday Life</i>                      IPSO Ref: 20096-17  <b>RONNIE HAWTHORNE</b>                      Published: Nov 5, 2017</p>	<p>Article clearly portrays him as having been responsible for the Loughinisland atrocity. He has never been charged or convicted of the attack. Printing pictures of him and his family home has put his life and the life of his family in danger.</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy                      Clause 2. Privacy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Not Upheld – no breach of the code</p>
<p>IPSO Ref 01667-18                      Date 19.2.18  </p>	<p>Inaccurate reporting, never a Sergeant in the PSNI and he did not admit to any charge of a criminal offence</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy</p>	<p>Apology online and in print Tues Feb 20, 2019</p>	<p>Resolved</p>
<p>IPSO Ref: 02845-18                      Date: 26 Feb 2018                      Joint complaints:                      LISA BEATTIE/MELANIE ATKINSON</p>	<p>Complained re the reporting and picture of their recent civil partnership. Father of one a senior member of Orange Order which is opposed to same sex marriage.</p>	<p>Clause 2. Privacy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Not Upheld</p>

<p>IPSO Ref 02371-18 Date 20.03.18 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Erroneous use of apostrophe meant that Barnardos Ireland confused with Barnados's UK, this caused distress.</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Adjudication March 27, 2018 Complaint does not breach code</p>
<p>IPSO Ref 02180-18 Date 6/3/18 MARTIN FLYNN</p>	<p>Complainant believes he is the person referred to as a 'troll' and inaccurate reporting of his relationship and dealings with Helen Deery.</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Resolved - IPSO mediation</p>
<p>IPSO Ref 02817-18 Date: 4/04/2018 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Complainant believes that article reinforces perpetuation of myth in rape case re victims' responses and 'opinions shared' not in agreement with medical evidence and psychological assessment of rape.</p>	<p>Clause 11. Victims of sexual assault Clause 1. Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Rejected 18/05/2018: article an opinion piece giving author's view. IPSO would need input from victim. Clause 11, complaint did not relate to disclosure of information which may identify individual victims of sexual assault</p>
<p>IPSO 03071-18 Date: 13/04/2018 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Alleges that comments made by individual not in police report and are false.</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Rejected 19/04/2018: IPSO argued complainant was not in a position to judge accuracy of comments. Up to police or bereave family to make a complaint.</p>

<p>IPSO 03951-18 Date: 11/6/2018 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Complained publication cropped photo to exclude husband leading people to believe lesbian couple leaving church. Clearly by-lined mother and daughter.</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Adjudication June 26, 2018. Complaint does not breach code</p>
<p>IPSO 05537-18 Date: 17/08/2018 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Complainant believes factually untrue and the individual the article referred to phoned abuse to staff and threatened with a journalist.</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy Clause 2. Harassment</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Not pursued</p>
<p>IPSO No: 05652-18 Date: 20/08/2018 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Complainant not present at conference in Tunis – article implied he is anti-Semitic, found deeply offensive and defamed his character.</p>	<p>1 - accuracy</p>	<p>Donation made to [REDACTED] chosen charity. Explanatory footnote added to online story and correction published in newspaper</p>	<p>Resolved</p>
<p>IPSO: 07331-18 Date: 21/11/2018 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>He claims inaccuracy re fears. that a local forest of ancient oak trees were at risk from a local environmental group</p>	<p>1 – Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Upheld</p>

INM (NORTHERN IRELAND)

SUNDAY LIFE IPSO complaints register 2018

IPSO complaint number, date, and name	Details of complaint	Editor's Code clause	How the complaint was dealt with	Outcome
<p><i>Belfast Telegraph/Sunday Life</i>                      IPSO Ref: 20315-17                      Date: Nov 5, 2017                      Ronnie Hawthorne</p>	<p>Article clearly portrays him as having been responsible for the Loughinisland atrocity. He has never been charged or convicted of the attack. Printing pictures of him and his family home has put his life and the life of his family in danger.</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy                      Clause 2. Privacy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Not Upheld – no breach of the code</p>
<p>IPSO Ref: 02845-18                      Date: 26 Feb 2018                      Joint complaint:                      Lisa Beattie/Melanie Atkinson</p>	<p>Complained re the reporting and picture of their recent civil partnership. Father of one a senior member of Orange Order which is opposed to same sex marriage.</p>	<p>Clause 2 . Privacy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Not Upheld</p>
<p>IPSO Ref 03003-18                      Published: April 8,2018                      [REDACTED]</p>	<p>[REDACTED] says article directly breached [REDACTED] privacy rights, putting family's personal security at risk.</p>	<p>Clause 2. Privacy</p>	<p>Internal complaints process exhausted without resolution</p>	<p>Not upheld</p>

<p>IPSO Ref: IPSO 05298-18</p> <p>Date: June 3, 2018</p> <p>FOR BRITAIN</p>	<p>Claim that no comment obtained from For Britain, claims presented as fact rather than from a source. Article suggested For Britain was an illicit organisation and use of non-relevant inclusion of term lesbian in describing ██████████</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy</p> <p>Clause 12. Discrimination</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>No adjudication at December 31, 2018</p>
<p>IPSO Ref: 07118-18</p> <p>Date: October 28, 2018</p> <p>██████████</p>	<p>Failure to contact him before publication he was not given opportunity to respond to serious inaccuracies</p>	<p>Clause 1. Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>Not pursued</p>
<p>IPSO Ref 08062-18</p> <p>Date Dec 23, 2018</p> <p>JOHN GORDON ██████████</p> <p>██████████</p>	<p>He was contacted by Sunday Life when specifically asked press not to contact him.</p>	<p>Clause 3. Harassment</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>No adjudication at December 31, 2018.</p>

**INM (NORTHERN IRELAND)**

INM magazines IPSO complaints register 2018

IPSO complaint number, date, and name	Details of complaint	Editor's Code clause	How the complaint was dealt with	Outcome
<p>IPSO Ref: 06571-18                      Northern Woman                      (October 2018)</p>	<p>██████████ said publication did not contact him for comment before article identified him as a stalker</p>	<p>1. Accuracy</p>	<p>The complaint was dealt with by corresponding directly with the complainant and subsequently with IPSO in circumstances where the complaint was not resolved.</p>	<p>No adjudication at December 31 2018</p>