



CHAMPION MEDIA GROUP ANNUAL STATEMENT 2019

INTRODUCTION

Waypride Ltd T/A Champion Media Group is a local, independent publisher based in Southport and has been trading since 1994.

The group publishes seven free newspaper titles in Sefton and West Lancashire, and north Liverpool.

The titles are:-

Southport Champion, Formby Champion, Ormskirk & West Lancashire Champion, Skelmersdale Champion, Aintree and Maghull Champion, Crosby & Litherland Champion, Bootle.

The Champion's current verified abc figure is 164,824 which covers all the titles named above.

The publisher's responsible person is Lyndsey Naylor – Managing Director.

EDITORIAL STANDARDS

Champion Newspapers adheres to and observes the Editor's Code of Practice and strives to maintain the very highest of editorial standards.

The new version of the Editor's Code has been issued to all editorial staff and all editorial staff are expected to maintain the standards set out in it.

Should we need to seek editorial guidance from IPSO we would not hesitate to do so. We have not, to date, had cause to do so. All IPSO guidance for journalists and all editorial staff is observed.

Verification of stories: We expect our industry-trained journalists to follow recognised editorial standards of practice and act with professionalism at all times, adhering to the Editor's Code of Practice and the Champion's own strictly observed editorial standards.

COMPLAINTS HANDLING

Editorial complaints are, depending on the nature of the complaint, in the first instance handled by the reporter responsible for the published report, and if not resolved passed on to the editor for resolution.

If not resolved we would advise the complainant to take up the relevant issue with IPSO in order to seek resolution or, via the appropriate legal channels should IPSO not be considered by the complainant.

The IPSO mark is displayed prominently in both print and online publications on an early right hand editorial page – usually page 3 or 5.

COMPLIANCE

There are no issues of complaints against the publisher which have been ruled on by IPSO's Complaints Committee over the period.

There are no incidents in relation to the publisher accepting it had breached the Editor's Code.

TRAINING PROCESS

Current Champion reporters have been employed via the industry's own recognised training bodies ie the NCTJ and as such have the relevant journalistic skills required to perform their roles.

Any other training requirements are readily available if required or requested.

We do not have training manuals but rather hold one-to-one assessments with reporters and subbing staff to cover issues such as copy style, law updates, and any other relevant issues they need guidance/training on.