

The **HAWICK**PAPER

IPSO annual statement

January 1-December 31, 2020

TITLE PUBLISHED

The Hawick Paper

Print/digital edition; weekly (Friday); 3,460 copies

RESPONSIBLE PERSON

Jason Marshall, proprietor and editor (jason@thehawickpaper.co.uk).

OVERVIEW

The Hawick Paper is a privately-owned title, established in August 2016. It maintains a sharp and unrelenting focus on local news and sport in Hawick and district. It is a small team, comprising an editor, six freelance reporters, three freelance photographers, and two columnists. There is also an advertising representative and a part-time administrator. The title has a dedicated website, Facebook page and Twitter account.

The Hawick Paper is printed by Newsquest in Glasgow.

EDITORIAL STANDARDS

The Hawick Paper adheres to the Editors' Code of Practice, while striving to ensure that its articles are fair and accurate, and that readers have a right of reply if there is something they feel is not correct. Stories are not published until any concerns over accuracy and potential legal issues have been addressed. Operating in such a small community, its journalists, all of whom are very experienced, use that experience every day to ensure accurate and balanced reporting which, in turn, preserves readers' trust.

COMPLAINTS HANDLING

All complaints, which are taken very seriously, will be investigated by the editor. Contact with the complainant must be made within one day of complaint coming to light. The paper will strive to complete any investigation within seven days where possible. Where the disputed story also appears online, it will be removed until the investigation has been completed. If the editor is satisfied the complaint has been handled rightly but there is no resolution, the editor should advise the complainant their next step is to contact IPSO.

VERIFICATION OF STORIES

Journalists are acutely aware that they have to do their utmost to verify stories. Articles involving contentious issues are scrutinised by the editor who may require advice from IPSO and/or the paper's legal representatives.

EDITORIAL MEETINGS

The editor is in constant contact with the news team, all of whom work remotely. Discussions on page leads/the splash/back of the book articles take place from Monday to Thursday each week, with journalists encouraged to voice their opinions at all times. The editor also maintains close contact with the paper's freelance photographers.

INTERVIEWS

When contacting townsfolk, journalists will identify themselves and explain why they are contacting the person. Shorthand notes and recordings are always kept by the paper's journalists.

OUR RECORD

We have had no IPSO complaints in the 12 months covered by this statement.