

IPSO annual statement for JPIMedia: 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

1 Factual information about the Regulated Entity

1.1 A list of its titles/products.

Attached.

1.2 The name of the Regulated Entity's responsible person.

Gary Shipton, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of JPIMedia and Regional Director of its titles in the South of England, is the responsible person for the company.

1.3 A brief overview of the nature of the Regulated Entity.

The regulated entity JPIMedia is a national and regional multimedia organisation in the UK. Its national brands are The Scotsman (Scotland), The Newsletter (Northern Ireland) and since March 2021 nationalworld.com. We provide news and information services to the communities we serve through our portfolio of publications and websites.

National World plc completed the purchase of all the issued shares of JPIMedia Publishing Limited on 2 January 2021. As a consequence, JPIMedia Publishing Limited and its subsidiaries ("JPIMedia" or "the Group"), which together publish all the titles and websites listed in the attachment "JPIMedia List of brands (as at March 2022)", are now under the ownership of National World plc.

During 2021, in addition to the launch of nationalworld.com a number of new metro World sites were established and some existing local sites were aggregated into new county-wide World platforms. The new sites are GlasgowWorld, LiverpoolWorld, ManchesterWorld, NewcastleWorld, BristolWorld, BirminghamWorld, and LondonWorld. The aggregated sites are NorthernIrelandWorld, LincolnshireWorld, WarwickshireWorld and, since February 2022, SussexWorld.

We continue to set the highest editorial standards by ensuring that our staff are provided with excellent internally developed training services. The Editors' Code of Practice is embedded in every part of our editorial operations and we commit absolutely to the principles expounded by IPSO.

JPIMedia continues to operate an internal Editorial Governance Committee with the key remit to consider, draft, implement and review the policies, procedures and training for the whole Group to ensure compliance with its obligations under IPSO.

2 Copies of any internal manuals, codes or guidance used by journalists

Attached

3. Brief details of the compliance process

Our training process

The Editors' Code is the standard used throughout the Group. Our staff undergo training to ensure they fully understand the Editors' Code and know how to apply the Code in real-life settings when seeking and drafting editorial content and dealing with any issues that may subsequently arise.

Updates to the Editors' Code and supporting Codebook along with any guidance issued is communicated to all members of staff. This communication takes place through JPIMedia's Editorial Learning and Development Department and is reinforced by the Editorial Directors and Editors in their regular briefings to their teams.

The Editorial Learning and Development Department provides an online training programme which tests staff on a range of scenarios which touch on various aspects of the Code and this module has been updated to reflect the more recent changes in the Editors' Code.

The Editors' Code is made available to new trainees joining JPIMedia and trainees are also put through the National Qualification in Journalism run by the National Council for the Training of Journalists. This includes training in ethical issues which is tested in the Media Law and Practice exam.

It is a condition of employment of all editorial staff, contained within their contracts, that they fully observe the standards required by IPSO as explained within the Code. It is also a condition of commissioned freelance contributors that they fully comply with the Code. This is also made clear through the induction process for all new editorial employees.

Law and ethics refreshers are an integral part of the JPIMedia training programme and the Editorial Learning and Development website includes material on ethical issues as well as the IPSO Code and JPIMedia complaints procedures. The appointment of Editors to most of JPIMedia's weekly titles in 2021 has been supported by a new programme of training for them which includes legal and ethical refresher training as well as the prioritisation of Code training.

Pre-publication guidance is provided in the first instance internally by the Deputy Editor-in-Chief and the Legal Director. All Editors have been informed of the IPSO contacts for which pre-publication advice should be sought. JPIMedia has a robust editorial management structure which ensures that whenever a story might require verification it is fully assessed but responsibility for the tone and content of every title remains with the Editor.

Our record on compliance

Whenever there is an adverse adjudication against a JPIMedia publication, it is referred

to JPIMedia's Editorial Governance Committee. The Committee examines the censure in the context of other adjudications and then initiates a full investigation. The investigation identifies the failings and the steps needed to ensure no repetition locally or across the Group.

These recommendations can include training requirements and potential changes to JPIMedia's editorial policies and procedures.

4. Details of the steps taken by the Regulated Entity in response to any adverse Adjudications by the Regulator during the previous year.

The following were upheld complaints published on IPSO's website in 2021.

04849-20 A Woman v Yorkshire Evening Post

Upheld, Clause 1 i and ii and Clause 2

In reporting a serious and sensitive claim about a person's health, where the person was not on the face of it identifiable, the newspaper should have:

1 Established the claim was true

2 Been satisfied that a person with 'special knowledge' could not have identified the individual

3 Established that, where a person with 'special knowledge' could have identified the individual, there was an overriding public interest in breaching the person's privacy.

None of this occurred on this occasion

Editorial teams have been advised to ensure that these steps are taken in future.

05823-20 A woman v the Halifax Courier

Upheld Clause 14

Considering all of the available evidence, the Committee found that the publication had been unable to establish that it had protected the complainant as a confidential source.

IPSO took the opportunity to express its serious concern over the breach of Clause 14 in this instance. It represented a breach of a moral obligation and had had serious consequences for the complainant.

The newspaper should have:

1 Retained the e-mail correspondence for two years

2 Ensured that its reporters understood the seriousness of revealing the identity of a confidential source

We were not convinced on this occasion that we had revealed the identity but we were unable to prove our position due to our failure to retain the e-mail trail.

Editorial teams have been advised to ensure that in future notes and e-mails are retained for two years.

The absolute importance of always protecting confidential sources has also been reaffirmed to underline IPSO's serious concern.

These points have been included in our on-line training course.

12214-20 Salmond v Scotland on Sunday

Upheld in part Clause 1

The Committee found that the publication did not take the necessary care when publishing the quote which appeared on the front page as the splash headline of the print article because it did not accurately represent the words which had been chosen by the complainant, which rendered it misleading.

The newspaper should have:

1 Ensured that the headline, placed in quotes, accurately summarized what the complainant had said.

The need for quotes in headlines to accurately reflect what was said has been reaffirmed to staff.

15682-20 Bride v Milton Keynes Citizen

Partly upheld Clause 1

The article reported as fact that "all the work in the leafy cul-de-sac was carried out without planning permission", but the Committee found that some of the work had benefited from permission and partly upheld the complaint.

The newspaper should have:

1 Used precise language in describing the work that had and had not benefited from planning permission.

The editorial teams have been reminded that it is vital that precise language is used in reporting complex planning stories of this nature.

29252-20 A woman v blackpoolgazette.co.uk

Upheld Clause 2

The Committee found that the article included sufficient information to identify the complainant as the recipient of a positive Covid test result and that the newspaper had not justified the inclusion of that information.

The newspaper should have:

1 Been satisfied that a person with 'special knowledge' could not have identified the individual

2 Where a person with 'special knowledge' could have identified the individual, established there was an overriding public interest in breaching the person's privacy.

Editorial teams have been reminded to exercise particular care in not jigsaw identifying someone and breaching their privacy.

00474-21 A woman v lep.co.uk

Upheld Clause 7

An article reported on a court case in which the defendant pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a child. It contained information which described the circumstances in which the assaults had taken place and the impacts of the prosecution on the child. The defendant was named in the article. The complainant said that the article had contained details which had identified the relationship between the child and the defendant.

The Committee recognised that the publication had taken steps to reduce the likelihood of the victim's identification, but the article had reported information heard in court regarding the circumstances in which the offences had taken place which the Committee considered was sufficient to imply a relationship between the defendant and the victim.

The newspaper should have:

1 Removed all information that could have suggested the identification of the child

Protecting children is one of the greatest obligations placed on our journalists. Editorial teams have been reminded that they should seek senior second opinion if they have concerns that evidence given in court might inadvertently lead to identification even to a limited number of people.

JPIMedia Editorial Complaints Policy (External)

JPIMedia is committed to upholding standards in editorial quality and content and acting in compliance with our regulatory guidelines and obligations.

We take all complaints about editorial content very seriously and seek to accordingly abide by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") requirements and the Editors' Code of Practice ("the Code").

What does this policy cover?

This policy applies to complaints about breaches of the Code and any other complaint in editorial content in our printed publications or on electronic services such as websites and apps, including text, pictures, video, audio/visual and interactive content, and which are either published or targeted at an audience in the UK. It does not cover:

- complaints about advertising (as that is regulated by the Advertising Standards Authority);
- complaints about online material on sites which we do not own and which are not under our control;
- at our discretion, legal or contractual matters which are dealt with more appropriately in the courts or tribunals or elsewhere.

How to complain

Complaints should be made in writing, either by email to the Editor identified on the website of the publication to which the complaint relates or by post to the address of the relevant publication and addressed in the first instance to the Editor.

In line with IPSO's policies, complaints about the Editors' Code will only be accepted within four months from the date of the behaviour complained of or first publication of the article that you are complaining about. If at the time you submit your complaint, the article remains accessible on a website or other electronic service operated by us however, complaints may be accepted up to 12 months from the date of the behaviour or first publication of the article you are complaining about, provided it is still possible to investigate the complaint fairly given the period of time which has elapsed. JPIMedia shall have sole discretion in determining this.

Complaints about the Editors' Code must include:

- a copy of the article in question, or a link to the relevant webpage or a web address, if the complaint is about published material (or reference to the publication title, issue date, page and article title if a copy is unavailable);
- a written explanation of your concerns with reference to the Editors' Code;

- any other documents that will help us assess your complaint.

Complaints received without this essential information cannot be considered. We may however, at our discretion, seek further details from you after your initial contact. If you cannot provide any requested information we may be unable to consider your complaint.

We reserve the right to reject, without further investigation, complaints that show no breach of the Editors' Code, or those which are vexatious and/or disproportionate, or those which are without justification (such as an attempt to argue a point of view or to lobby).

We may also decline to consider complaints from third parties not directly affected by the alleged breach of the Editors' Code. When considering whether to accept such a complaint, the position of the party most closely involved in the matter will be taken into account.

What happens to your complaint?

The complaints process is free of charge irrespective of the outcome of your complaint

We aim to acknowledge receipt of your complaint within 5 working days of receipt. You in turn agree to respond promptly to any request for further information.

If we receive multiple complaints about the same issue we may choose to make one response to all such complaints.

We will aim to respond to complaints in writing within 7 working days of receiving everything we need from you to allow us to investigate your complaint.

We will always treat you courteously and with respect. We expect the same from you. We may decline to consider a complaint which is abusive or gratuitously offensive.

Appeals process

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your original complaint you have the right to appeal the decision by notifying the Editor, in writing, within 7 working days of receipt of the letter notifying you of the outcome.

Upon receipt of such appeal letter, the Editor shall forward this for consideration to the Deputy Editor-in-Chief where appropriate, who will then aim to assess the appeal within 7 working days of receipt of such notification. After that you will be issued a letter confirming whether your appeal has been upheld or partially upheld and whether any actions will accordingly be taken.

For the avoidance of doubt, you will have no further right of appeal with the company following the determination of this appeals process. However, you may look to exercise your right to take the matter to IPSO.

Complaint to IPSO on exhaustion of our complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with our final response to your complaint you may complain to IPSO for consideration. Further details can be found at <http://www.ipso.co.uk>.

Policy Changes

We reserve the right to amend this policy as and when required.

Any complaint will be considered against the published policy on the date of receipt of your complaint.

Editorial complaints that do not relate to the Editors' Code will be considered to the same principles although the time scales for consideration will be subject to legal limitations where a civil claim is made.

Current list of brands						
SOUTH	CENTRAL	YORKSHIRE	NORTH	N IRELAND	SCOTLAND	GROUP
				News Letter	The Scotsman	NationalWorld
The News, Portsmouth portsmouth.co.uk	Banbury Guardian	The Yorkshire Post	Berwick Advertiser	Derry Journal Tuesday	Scotland on Sunday	GlasgowWorld
Chichester Observer	Biggleswade Chronicle	Yorkshire Evening Post	Hartlepool Mail	Derry Journal Friday	The Edinburgh Evening News	LiverpoolWorld
Bognor Regis Observer	Boston Standard	The Star	Morpeth Herald	Farming Life	The Falkirk Herald	ManchesterWorld
Midhurst & Petworth Observer	Bucks & Winslow Advertiser	Doncaster Free Press	News Post Leader	Portadown Times	The Fife Free Press	NewcastleWorld
Littlehampton Gazette	Bucks Herald	Sheffield Telegraph	Northumberland Gazette	Mid Ulster Mail	The Southern Reporter	BristolWorld
Worthing Herald	Buxton Advertiser	Dewsbury Reporter	Shields Gazette	Larne Times	The Stornoway Gazette	BirminghamWorld
West Sussex Gazette	Chronicle & Echo	HArrogate Series	Sunderland Echo	Carrick Times	Motherwell Times series	LondonWorld
West Sussex County Times	Daventry Express	Halifax Courier	Burnley Express	Newtownabbey Times	Cumbernauld News	
Mid Sussex Times	Derbyshire Times	Wakefield Express	Chorley Guardian	Banbridge/Dromore Leader	Kirkintilloch Herald	
Crawley Observer	Eastwood & Kimberley Advertiser	Scarborough News	Clitheroe Adv & Times	Londonderry/Roe Valley Sentinel	Carluke Gazette	
Sussex Express Series	Gainsborough Standard	Pontefract and Castleford Express	Fleetwood Weekly News	Coleraine/Ballymoney Times	Buchan Observer	
Eastbourne Herald	Harborough Mail	Whitby Gazette	Lancashire Post	Ballymena/Antrim Times	Linlithgow Journal & Gazette series	
Hastings and Rye Observer	Hemel Gazette	Pocklington Post	Lancaster Guardian	Ulster Star	Milngavie Herald	
Bexhill and Battle Observer sussexworld.co.uk	Horncastle News	Brighouse Echo	Lytham St Annes Express	Lurgan Mail	Inverurie Herald	
	Hucknall Dispatch	Todmorden News	Nelson Leader/Colne Times	northernirelandworld.com	Fraserburgh Herald	
	Leamington Spa Courier		The Blackpool Gazette	newsletter.co.uk	Berwickshire News	
	Leighton Buzzard Observer	yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk	The Courier (Longridge&Garstg)	derryjournal.com	Mearns Leader series	
	Louth Leader	thestar.co.uk	The Visitor (Morecambe)	farminglife.com	Glasgow South & Eastwood Extra	
	Luton News	yorkshirepost.co.uk	Wigan Post Weekly		Galloway Gazette	
	Ashfield Chad	doncasterfreepress.co.uk	Wigan Observer		Deeside Piper	
	Mansfield Chad	halifaxcourier.co.uk	News Guardian		Ellon Times	
	Market Rasen Mail	wakefieldexpress.co.uk			Donside Piper	
	Matlock Mercury	thescarboroughnews.co.uk	lep.co.uk		Kincardineshire Observer	
	Melton Times	dewsburyreporter.co.uk	blackpoolgazette.co.uk		Ellon Times Series	
	Milton Keynes Citizen Extra	harrogateadvertiser.co.uk	wiganoday.net		Angus County Press	
	Milton Keynes Citizen Lite		burnleyexpress.net		Glenrothes Gazette	
	Corby Telegraph		lancasterguardian.co.uk		Lanark Gazette Series	
	Northants Telegraph		sunderlandecho.com		Midlothian Advertiser	
	Peterborough Telegraph		shieldsgazette.co.uk		scotsman.com	
	Rugby Advertiser		northumberlandgazette.co.uk		edinburgh.scotsman.com	
	Skegness Standard		hartlepoolmail.co.uk		fifetoday.co.uk	
	Sleaford Standard				falkirkherald.co.uk	
	Worksop Guardian				thesouthernreporter.co.uk	
	www.warwickshireworld.com				stornowaygazette.co.uk	
	www.lincolnshireworld.com				buchanobserver.co.uk	
	www.banburyguardian.co.uk				www.berwickshirenews.co.uk	
	www.biggleswadechronicle.co.uk				www.deesidepiper.co.uk	
	www.bostonstandard.co.uk				www.gallowaygazette.co.uk	
	www.bucksherald.co.uk				https://www.mearnsleader.co.uk	
	www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk				www.fraserburghherald.co.uk	

