

*Annual Statement to the Independent Press  
Standards Organisation*

Period covered: 1 January 2021 to 31 December  
2021



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## **1. Foreword**

This is the annual statement of Newsquest Media Group to the Independent Press Standards Organisation for the year 2020. It is made pursuant to clause 3.3.7 and Annex A of the Scheme Membership Agreement.

## **2. Overview**

Newsquest Media Group Limited is one of the UK's leading news publishers, with the company now owning and distributing over 200 local news and magazine brands. Newsquest formed its first entity in 1995 when Reed Regional Newspapers were bought by its own management. Since 1995 the company has grown at a rapid rate and has acquired several large regional newspapers over the years such as Westminster Press. Recent structural changes mean that Newsquest Media Group is now the principal publisher with our registered office is at Loudwater Mill in High Wycombe with an office in central London. Newsquest's ultimate holding company in the UK is Gannett U.K Limited, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gannett Co. Inc, a US company listed on the New York stock exchange who have 250 daily titles in circulation.

For a breakdown of the published newspaper and magazine titles and associated websites see appendix one. Circulation figures for these titles are available to the regulator on request.

## **3. Responsible Person**

The Responsible Person (as defined in clause 3.3.9 of the Scheme Membership Agreement) is Simon Westrop, the Group Head of Legal and Company Secretary for Newsquest Media Group Limited.

## **4. Nature of the Regulated Entity**

The fundamental role of our business is to deliver the news that matters to our readers. Never has the power and relevance of the local press been as important and appreciated by our readers as it has been over the past two years. Despite rapid and evolving commercial and technological changes in our society, and an increase in digital consumption of news, it is clear to us that regional press is still important to the public and that through our reporting on the events of daily life in addition to the unusual, we keep our communities and our readers connected.

At the time of writing, we currently have 22 daily newspapers and it is our role to record and report on the lives of the people who make up the communities we serve and those of our readers.

Our titles cover the whole country and we now have over six million readers a week purchasing copies in print and as at the end of 2021 we boast a digital following of around 35 million readers who log in and access our digital offering every month a figure that has increased over the past 12 months. Our titles include *The Northern Echo*, *The Strad*, *The Mail* and many, many more. Some of these titles have been in circulation for many years whilst others are new to the group following various acquisitions the company has made in recent years.

In addition to our regional newspapers we also publish several magazines ranging from *Living* a lifestyle magazine which has grown from 6 titles in 2017 to 26 titles at the end of 2021, to industry specific publications including *Insurance Times*.

## **5. Reflection on 2021**

At the time of writing this annual statement, we have come to the end of another challenging year for businesses, for our readers and the country as whole. This year we have continued to face challenges and adapt to the new normal following the coronavirus pandemic. We, like many others, have continued to adapt to industry changes and the needs of our readers. The increase in digital news consumption has continued and we have sought to make our publications accessible on numerous platforms. We continue to receive a very positive response from our readers to the availability of their local newspaper throughout this period of uncertainty.

**In each annual statement, we invite a local editor to give us a glimpse of the newspaper and the life of the community it represents. This year we have asked Katie French, Regional Editor, to reflect on the changes that the business has seen during the coronavirus pandemic and how we expect to move forward.**

*Newsquest successfully challenged an anonymity order and was able to name a disgraced police officer who was sacked after abusing his position to pursue vulnerable women and victims of domestic violence.*

*Katie French, former editor of the Basingstoke Gazette, began asking questions after the policeman's name were withheld from a press release about his misconduct hearing. Ms French investigated further, obtaining the officer's name and details about the incidents, and with the full support of Newsquest's legal team, sought to challenge the anonymity order the officer had insisted was in place to protect him through the judicial review process.*

*As Newsquest's legal team launched proceedings, it emerged that no such anonymity order was in place. They had been misled. In reality, the officer's lawyer had successfully requested the hearing be heard in private.*

*At a high court hearing in a January, Justice Ellenbogen ruled that PC Terry Cooke had no reasonable expectation of privacy, which enabled The Basingstoke Gazette to name the officer and make the full details of his misconduct public for the first time. The judge also made the extraordinary decision to award costs on an indemnity basis - with the former police officer forced to pick up the bill.*

*The judgment was a victory for Newsquest following a complex ten-month-long battle with its legal advocates and journalists working hard to unpick the bizarre circumstances that led to an officer who abused his position of power to be afforded anonymity in the first place and the subsequent confusion when Ms French sought to contact Hampshire Constabulary and other interested parties in relation to the case.*

*The saga also raises valid questions about the practices of misconduct hearings in police forces. Statistics compiled through an investigation by the New Statesman show the names of a quarter of officers sacked for serious offences are withheld from the public. This is in stark contrast with Home Office guidelines which recommend police forces are transparent and open in proceedings.*

*Newsquest's unwavering support for this case has shone a light on the opaque world of police misconduct hearings and has scored a victory for the principals of open justice.*

## **6. Editorial Standards**

The maintenance of high editorial standards is at the core of our business and all staff are obligated to adhere to the Editor's Code of Practice ("The Code").

For the purposes of this statement to IPSO, we attach at Appendix 2 internal guidance entitled "Principles of Ethical Newsgathering", which is specific to the work of journalists. It is compiled drawing from the experiences of our colleagues in the US. It is intended for guidance only and has no binding effect, but we use it to help journalists to follow the Editors' Code and good practice generally. These guidelines are reviewed regularly and updated when appropriate to take account of regulatory requirements, changes to the legislation and the like.

Newsquest editors are generally receptive to non-binding pre-publication discussions with IPSO where a person affected by a proposed story has raised concerns. However, in practice the public use of this facility is low, at least as far as regional newspapers are concerned. We have experienced very few approaches of this kind and we are not aware of any in 2021. If, however, a story is presented that we believe may provoke confrontation or controversy we consider and refer to the rulings and guidance that IPSO publish to guide the way in which the story is written through use of precepts before publication. Where necessary, editors and journalists will seek advice from IPSO in advance of publishing articles to consider matters of compliance with the Editors' Code of Practice. This advice is then considered by senior editorial staff and with reference to the public interest when refining and publishing any articles.

In respect of story verification, Newsquest's approach to verification is discussed variously in the Newsquest guidance entitled "Principles of Ethical Newsgathering" at Appendix 2.

A large number of stories are generated from third party sources and there is no direct obligation in the Editors' Code requiring journalists to contact the person who is actually the subject of a story. That must always be a question of editorial judgment.

## **7. Training Process**

Newsquest has policies on numerous matters pertinent to the work of both its employees and the interests of our readers. Although many policies are required by statute and are also published on our corporate website such as modern slavery, anti-harassment and GDPR policies, many others are produced and circulated internally to departments and can include policies on competition issues, commercial practices and copyright infringement. These policies are reviewed and updated regularly within the company and communicated to staff.

All trainee journalists are entered for the National Journalism Qualification from the National Council for the Training of Journalists. An external trainer prepares trainees for the qualification. Each course contains an introduction to IPSO, including case studies. In addition, the trainees undertake three practical tests in which they are asked to consider scenarios that might involve breaches of the Editors' Code.

The in-house legal team provides editorial training for Newsquest regions during the course of the year and the format will range from updates on legal matters, briefing on any new

developments with IPSO and will continue to highlight the importance of compliance with the Code to ensure any new joiners are up to speed as well as providing refresher training for those who require it. Staff are supplied with physical copies of the Code and are encouraged to contact the in-house legal team if any issues or queries arise at any stage.

This year our legal team has delivered online training to staff via video conferencing in areas such as copyright and court reporting. This has allowed us to revisit how training has traditionally been delivered and adapt it to work for our employees and the hybrid working environment in which we are in.

The majority of our recent training has been conducted electronically due to the pandemic and this training covers a range of topics from ethical conduct to cyber security and, of course, data protection. In-person training has now resumed and we continue to encourage staff to make use of internal and external training resources as and when specific training needs are identified by both individuals, departments or the HR team.

## **8. Complaints Handling Process**

Editors understand that IPSO's own complaints process emphasises the requirement that complainants should first try to resolve the issue with the newspaper before going to the regulator. Therefore all our local titles advertise the existence of IPSO and the Editors' Code, as enforced by IPSO, as well as our complaints process, in both the print and online editions of all titles. Readers will find a templated piece about press complaints in our printed newspapers and on our websites. For example:

*Press complaints: The Whitehaven News abides by the Independent Press Standards Organisation Editors' Code of Practice. Readers who wish to make representations should write in the first instance to The Editor, The Whitehaven News 1 Dalston Road, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 5AU or [vanessa.sims@newsquest.co.uk](mailto:vanessa.sims@newsquest.co.uk). If not satisfied, complainants can then contact the IPSO at Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG. Email [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk) Tel 03001232220 Website: [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk)*

Furthermore, on the footer of all of our group websites we have included the below statement:

*IPSO regulated: This website and associated newspapers adhere to the Independent Press Standards Organisation's Editors' Code of Practice. If you have a complaint about the editorial content which relates to inaccuracy or intrusion, then please contact the editor [here](#). If you are dissatisfied with the response provided you can contact IPSO [here](#).*

Complaints under the Editors' Code are handled personally by Editors, Group Editors (in charge of a series of titles) or Digital Content Editors (in the case of online story complaints). Subject to any relevant internal advisory policies, our complaints handlers are not restricted in their conduct of the process or the discretion they may use. Flexibility is encouraged in order to achieve a resolution. If agreement cannot be achieved or has not been achieved within 28 days, complainants are reminded of their right to take the matter to IPSO. Legal claims are referred to Newsquest Media Group Legal.

Published corrections and apologies, follow-ups, deletions or annotations to archived online stories, private letters and personal meetings are some of the various resolutions which may

be offered to complainants where appropriate, however these will not be offered if the Editor believes such story is justified under the Code and by statute.

## **9. GDPR**

Across the Group we receive numerous requests from individuals requesting that published articles from our online editorial archives, which are publicly available, are permanently erased. The argument for deletion relies on the concept of “the right to be forgotten” and the vast majority of these requests directly relate to published reports of criminal convictions and the volume of such complaints eclipses the number of complaints that we receive relating to the Editor’s Code.

Often these requests will be understood as applications under Article 17 GDPR and Section 47 of the Data Protection Act 2018, which confer certain rights of erasure on data subjects. All these communications are passed to Newsquest Media Group’s Data Protection Office (“DPO”) at its dedicated email address: [privacy@newsquest.co.uk](mailto:privacy@newsquest.co.uk). Some applicants, however, do raise arguments that the archived articles contain factually inaccurate information and that articles should be deleted from archive on this basis. The approach of the DPO in the majority of cases is to assess these archived articles and, in the few instances that it applies, any inaccuracies will be corrected and reflected in the archives under the principle of accuracy of processed data, as set out in Article 5 GDPR.

## **10. IPSO Adjudications**

There were six complaints upheld against Newsquest publications in 2021:

Wadeson v oxfordmail.co.uk. This saw a breach under Clause 1 (accuracy) of the Code of Practice and led to the publication of an adjudication.

A man v Isle of Wight County Press. This saw a breach under Clause 1 (accuracy) of the Code of Practice and led to the publication of an adjudication.

Robinson v Harrow Times. This saw a breach under Clause 1 (accuracy) of the Code of Practice and led to the publication of a correction.

A woman v asianimage.co.uk. This saw a breach under Clause 1 (accuracy), of the Code of Practice. This led to the publication of a correction.

Carr v Southend Echo. This saw a breach under Clause 1 (accuracy) of the Code of Practice. This led to the publication of a correction.

Lovatt v The National. This saw a breach under Clause 1 (accuracy) of the Code of Practice. This led to the publication of a correction.

As a result of the adjudications Newsquest staff were reminded of the IPSO guidance on researching and reporting stories, the importance of accuracy in articles and the importance of using multiple sources for verification where appropriate.

Full details of the rulings can be found here:

[www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=12118-20](http://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=12118-20)

[www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28280-20](http://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28280-20)

[www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=29111-20](http://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=29111-20)

[www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=01987-21](http://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=01987-21)

[www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=03296-21](http://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=03296-21)

[www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=04302-21](http://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=04302-21)



## **Appendix 1**

### **NEWSQUEST MEDIA GROUP TITLES 2020**

Advertiser (Barrow-in-Furness)

Alloa & Hillfoots Advertiser

Andover Advertiser

Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald

Ascot News

Ashton Extra

Asian Image

Ayr Advertiser

Banbury Cake

Barnet & Potters Bar Times

Barrhead New

Barry & District News

Basildon Echo

Basingstoke Extra

Basingstoke Gazette

Bay Living

Berrow's Worcester Journal

Bexley News Shopper

Bicester Advertiser

Blackpool Lytham & St Anne's Citizen

Bolton Post

Border Counties Advertiser

Border Telegraph

Borehamwood & Elstree Times

Bournemouth Advertiser

Bracknell & Wokingham Midweek

Bracknell News

Braintree & Witham Times

Bridgwater Mercury  
Bridgwater Star  
Bridport and Lyme Regis News  
Bromley News Shopper  
Bromsgrove Advertiser  
Bucks Free Press  
Burnham Standard  
Burnham & Highbridge Weekly News  
Burnley Citizen  
Bury Times  
Bury Times (Friday)  
Business HQ  
Camborne Packet  
Campaign Blackwood, Newbridge & Cross Keys  
Campaign Caerphilly  
Bargoed & Ystrad Mynach  
Carlisle Living  
Carrick Herald  
Castlepoint Echo  
Central Fife Times & Advertiser  
Chard and Ilminster News  
Chelmsford Weekly News  
Cheltenham Independent  
Chester-le-Street Advertiser  
Chingford Guardian  
Chorley & Leyland Citizen  
Christchurch Advertiser  
Clacton Gazette  
Clydebank Post  
Consett & Stanley Advertiser  
Cotswold Living

Cotswold Journal  
County Independent  
County Times  
Craven Herald & Pioneer  
Crewe & Nantwich Guardian  
Croydon Guardian (North)  
Croydon Guardian (South)  
Cumbria Life  
Cumnock Chronicle  
Daily Echo (Bournemouth)  
Daily Gazette (Colchester)  
Darlington & Stockton Times (Cleveland)  
Darlington & Stockton Times (County Durham)  
Darlington & Stockton Times (Richmond and Dales)  
Darlington, Aycliffe & Sedgefield Advertiser  
Denbighshire Free Press  
Dorchester Life  
Dorset Business  
Dorset Echo  
Dorset Society  
Droitwich Spa Advertiser  
Dudley News  
Dumbarton & Vale of Leven Reporter  
Dumfries & Galloway Life  
Dunfermline Extra  
Dunfermline Press  
Durham Advertiser  
Durham Times  
Dursley Gazette  
East Lothian Courier  
Education Mag

Ellesmore Port & Nelson Standard  
Enfield Independent  
Epping Forest Guardian  
Epping Forest Independent  
Epsom Guardian  
EssentialARB  
Essex County Standard  
Evening Times  
Evesham Journal  
Falmouth Packet  
Fife & Kinross Extra  
Flora Special Forest Journal  
Forestry Journal  
Frinton & Waldon Gazette  
Gazette & Herald  
Gazette & Herald (Chippenham)  
Gazette & Herald (Devizes)  
Gazette & Herald (Marlborough)  
Gazette Gloucestershire Gazette Thornbury Edition  
Gazette Yate and Sodbury Edition  
Gloucester Gazette  
Going Out Dorset  
Gravesham News Shopper  
Greenock Telegraph  
Halesowen News  
Halstead Gazette  
Hampshire Business (Monthly)  
Hampshire Chronicle (Winchester)  
Hampshire Society (Southampton)  
Harpenden Review Harrow Times  
Harwich and Manningtree Standard

Helensburgh Advertiser  
Helston Gazette  
Helston Packet  
Helston Penryn Packet  
Hendon & Finchley Times  
Herefordshire Living  
Hereford Times  
Hexham Courant  
Ilkley Gazette  
In-Cumbria Irvine Times  
Isle of Wight County Press  
Keep It Local  
Keighley News  
Knutsford Guardian  
Lancashire Telegraph (Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn & Ribble Valley)  
Lancashire Telegraph (Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale)  
Lancashire Telegraph (Burnley Free)  
Largs & Millport Weekly News  
Ledbury Reporter  
Leigh Journal  
Life & Home Magazine  
Limited Edition  
Limited Edition Society  
Living Magazines (26 county titles, north to south)  
Lizard & Meneage Guide Locate  
Ludlow Advertiser  
Luxury Maldon Standard  
Malvern Gazette  
Manningtree and Harwich Standard  
Marlow Free Press  
Mid Cheshire Guardian

Mid Sussex Argus  
Midweek Observer (Slough, Windsor, Maidenhead)  
Milford Mercury  
Monmouthshire Free Press (Chepstow)  
Monmouthshire Living  
New Forest Post  
New Forest Society  
News Extra Eastleigh  
News Extra Southampton  
News Extra Winchester  
News & Star North Hants Society (Basingstoke & Andover)  
North Wales Chronicle  
North Wales Pioneer  
North Yorkshire Advertiser  
Oxford Herald (Abingdon)  
Oxford Herald (Didcot)  
Oxford Herald (Wallingford)  
Oxford Herald (Wantage)  
Oxford Mail  
Oxford Times  
Paisley People  
Peeblesshire News  
Pembrokeshire Farmer  
Pembrokeshire Living  
Penarth Times  
Penwith Pirate  
Pontypool Free Press  
Poole Advertiser  
Prescot Extra  
Preston & Leyland Citizen  
Prestwich & Whitefield Guide

Property Chronicle  
Radcliffe Times  
Rayleigh/Rochford Castlepoint Standard  
Reading Midweek  
Redditch and Alcester Advertiser  
Rhyl Journal  
Richmond & Twickenham Times  
Romsey Advertiser  
Royal Borough Observer  
Royal Cornwall Show Programme  
Runcorn and Widnes World  
Sale & Altrincham Messenger  
Salford City News  
Salisbury Journal  
Selby Star  
Seven Days Magazine  
Slough & South Bucks Observer  
Slough Express Smallholder  
Somerset County Gazette (Taunton)  
Somerset County Gazette (West Somerset)  
South Bucks  
Star South Coast Argus  
South Wales Argus  
South Wales Golfer  
South Wales Guardian  
South West Farmer  
Southend Echo  
Southend Standard  
Southern Daily Echo  
St Albans Review  
St Helens Star

Stourbridge Limited Edition  
Stourbridge News  
Stretford & Urmston Messenger  
Stroud News & Journal  
Surrey Comet  
Sutton Guardian  
Swanage & Wareham Advertiser  
Swindon Advertiser  
Swindon Star  
Taste Cumbria  
Taunton Star Telegraph & Argus  
Tenbury Wells Advertiser  
Tewkesbury Admag  
The Argus  
The Bolton News  
The Cumberland News  
The Gazette (Johnstone and Renfrewshire)  
The Guide  
The Herald  
The Herald on Sunday  
The Impartial Reporter  
The Leader (Flintshire & Wrexham)  
The Mail (Cumbria)  
The National  
The Northern Echo  
The Partnership The Post (Blackburn)  
The Post (Bolton)  
The Press (York)  
The Reading Chronicle  
The Shuttle  
The South Lakes Citizen



The Standard (Chester)  
The Villager  
The Weekend Leader  
The Whitehaven News  
Thornton Cleveleys Citizen  
Three Counties Farmer  
Thurrock Gazette  
Times & Star Tiptree Tribune  
Tivyside Advertiser  
Tottenham & Wood Green Independent  
Troon & Prestwick Times  
Voice  
Wales Farmer  
Waltham Forest Guardian  
Waltham Forest Independent  
Wandsworth Guardian (Putney)  
Wanstead & Woodford Guardian  
Warrington Guardian  
Warrington Midweek  
Watford Free Observer  
Watford Observer  
Wear Valley Advertiser  
West Cornwall Packet  
Western Telegraph  
Westmorland Gazette  
Weymouth and Dorchester Advertiser  
Wharfedale Observer  
Whitchurch Herald  
Widnes World  
Wilmslow Guardian  
Wilts & Glos Standard

Cotswold Wilts & Glos Standard

North Wilts

Wiltshire Living

Wiltshire Star (North)

Wiltshire Star (West)

Wiltshire Times

Wimbledon Guardian

Wimborne Life

Winsford & Middlewich Guardian

Wirral Globe

Witham & Braintree Times

Witney Gazette

Wokingham News

Woodley & Earley Chronicle

Worcester News

Wotton Gazette

York Herald

York Star

[www.allanwaterherald.co.uk](http://www.allanwaterherald.co.uk)

[www.alloaadvertiser.com](http://www.alloaadvertiser.com)

[www.andoveradvertiser.co.uk](http://www.andoveradvertiser.co.uk)

[www.ardrossanherald.com](http://www.ardrossanherald.com)

[www.asianimage.co.uk](http://www.asianimage.co.uk)

[www.ayradvertiser.com](http://www.ayradvertiser.com)

[www.banburycake.co.uk](http://www.banburycake.co.uk)

[www.barrheadnews.com](http://www.barrheadnews.com)

[www.barryanddistrictnews.co.uk](http://www.barryanddistrictnews.co.uk)

[www.basildonrecorder.co.uk](http://www.basildonrecorder.co.uk)

[www.basingstokegazette.co.uk](http://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk)

[www.baylivingmag.co.uk](http://www.baylivingmag.co.uk)

[www.berkshiramediagroup.co.uk](http://www.berkshiramediagroup.co.uk)

[www.berkshireweddingplanner.co.uk](http://www.berkshireweddingplanner.co.uk)

[www.bicesteradvertiser.net](http://www.bicesteradvertiser.net)

[www.blackpoolcitizen.co.uk](http://www.blackpoolcitizen.co.uk)

[www.bmgevents.co.uk](http://www.bmgevents.co.uk)

[www.boatingcornwall.co.uk](http://www.boatingcornwall.co.uk)

[www.bordertelegraph.com](http://www.bordertelegraph.com)

[www.bordercountiesadvertizer](http://www.bordercountiesadvertizer)

[www.borehamwoodtimes.co.uk](http://www.borehamwoodtimes.co.uk)

[www.bournemouthecho.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk)

[www.bracknellnews.co.uk](http://www.bracknellnews.co.uk)

[www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk](http://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk)

[www.brentwoodweeklynews.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodweeklynews.co.uk)

[www.bridgwatermercury.co.uk](http://www.bridgwatermercury.co.uk)

[www.bridportnews.co.uk](http://www.bridportnews.co.uk)

[www.bromsgroveadvertiser.co.uk](http://www.bromsgroveadvertiser.co.uk)

[www.bucksfreepress.co.uk](http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk)

[www.burnhamandhighbridgeweeklynews.co.uk](http://www.burnhamandhighbridgeweeklynews.co.uk)

[www.burnleycitizen.co.uk](http://www.burnleycitizen.co.uk)

[www.burytimes.co.uk](http://www.burytimes.co.uk)

[www.businessdorset.co.uk](http://www.businessdorset.co.uk)

[www.campaignseries.co.uk](http://www.campaignseries.co.uk)

[www.carlisleliving.co.uk](http://www.carlisleliving.co.uk)

[www.carrickherald.com](http://www.carrickherald.com)

[www.centrafifetimes.com](http://www.centrafifetimes.com)

[www.chardandilminsternews.co.uk](http://www.chardandilminsternews.co.uk)

[www.chelmsfordweeklynews.co.uk](http://www.chelmsfordweeklynews.co.uk)

[www.chesterstandard.co.uk](http://www.chesterstandard.co.uk)

[www.choosecumbria.co.uk](http://www.choosecumbria.co.uk)

[www.chorleycitizen.co.uk](http://www.chorleycitizen.co.uk)

[www.clactonandfrintongazette.co.uk](http://www.clactonandfrintongazette.co.uk)

[www.clydebankpost.co.uk](http://www.clydebankpost.co.uk)

[www.communitynewsgroup.co.uk](http://www.communitynewsgroup.co.uk)  
[www.congletonguardian.co.uk](http://www.congletonguardian.co.uk)  
[www.cotswoldjournal.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldjournal.co.uk)  
[www.countytimes.co.uk](http://www.countytimes.co.uk)  
[www.cravenherald.co.uk](http://www.cravenherald.co.uk)  
[www.creweguardian.co.uk](http://www.creweguardian.co.uk)  
[www.croydonguardian.co.uk](http://www.croydonguardian.co.uk)  
[www.cumberlandnews.co.uk](http://www.cumberlandnews.co.uk)  
[www.cumbrialife.co.uk](http://www.cumbrialife.co.uk)  
[www.cumnockchronicle.com](http://www.cumnockchronicle.com)  
[www.dailyecho.co.uk](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk)  
[www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk)  
[www.denbighshirefreepress.co.uk](http://www.denbighshirefreepress.co.uk)  
[www.dorsetecho.co.uk](http://www.dorsetecho.co.uk)  
[www.droitwichadvertiser.co.uk](http://www.droitwichadvertiser.co.uk)  
[www.dudleynews.co.uk](http://www.dudleynews.co.uk)  
[www.dumbartonreporter.co.uk](http://www.dumbartonreporter.co.uk)  
[www.dumfriesandgallowaylife.co.uk](http://www.dumfriesandgallowaylife.co.uk)  
[www.dunfermlinepress.com](http://www.dunfermlinepress.com)  
[www.durhamtimes.co.uk](http://www.durhamtimes.co.uk)  
[www.ealingtimes.co.uk](http://www.ealingtimes.co.uk)  
[www.eastlothiancourier.com](http://www.eastlothiancourier.com)  
[www.eastsideadvertiser.co.uk](http://www.eastsideadvertiser.co.uk)  
[www.echo-news.co.uk](http://www.echo-news.co.uk)  
[www.elmbridgeguardian.co.uk](http://www.elmbridgeguardian.co.uk)  
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### **Newsquest Media Group - Code of Conduct - Ethics Policy**

This code is designed to establish guidelines to the behaviour and responsibilities of journalists employed by Newsquest Media Group.

Every Newsquest title must strive to be the 'bible' for its local area. Reliability, accuracy and integrity are essential and help us deliver excellence.

Therefore, in all matters editorial, the highest professional standards must be practised. At all times all necessary safeguards must be maintained to prevent any action or association that might reflect adversely, directly or indirectly, upon Newsquest.

All Newsquest journalists are expected to present their own original work for inclusion in the newspapers. Newsquest Media Group will not tolerate the passing off of material sourced from other media, including TV, radio and the Internet as a journalist's own work.

Any researched material used in copy must state the source.

All Newsquest titles adhere to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) Code of Practice.

Every journalist in the group is given a copy of the Code on joining the company, and every editor is expected to ensure rigorously that not only their staff but anyone who contributes to their papers observes the Code. Every paper carries the statement "We adhere to the Independent Press Standards Organisation Code of Practice."

#### **The Code covers:**

- Accuracy
- Right of reply
- Privacy
- Harassment
- Intrusion into Grief or Shock
- Children
- Children in sex cases
- Reporting on Crime
- Listening Devices
- Misrepresentation
- Victims of sexual assault
- Discrimination
- Financial Journalism
- Confidential Sources
- Payment for stories. (This relates to payment for stories from witnesses or potential witnesses in 'live' criminal proceedings)
- Public Interest Reporting

In addition the Code is published on Newsquest OnLine (NOL). Also on NOL for continual reference and updating are copies of:

- A Best Practice Guidelines for financial/business journalists.
- Best Practice Guidelines to ensure impartiality when reporting on elections, both local and general.