

Regional Media Ltd — Annual Report 2022

1)

1.1: Rotherham Advertiser

The Weekender (formerly Dearne Valley Weekender)

Chase

Life & Style

www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk

1.2 Andrew Mosley (editorial director)

Contact: andrew.mosley@rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk or [REDACTED].

1.3 Regional Media Ltd was formed in April 2015 after the purchase by Nick Alexander of all the shares from Garnett Dickinson.

Our products mainly cover Rotherham, South and East Barnsley and parts of the borough of Doncaster.

The Rotherham Advertiser (14,800 circulation) began publishing on January 2, 1858 and covers the borough, while the Weekender (30,000 copies free) is around 30 years old and focusses on the Dearne Valley, which also takes in parts of Doncaster and Barnsley. Chase (14,800 copies inside the Advertiser and 4,000 distributed separately) is inserted in the Rotherham Advertiser and is a lifestyle magazine, while Life & Style (5,000 copies) is advertising based, distributed separately and covers Rotherham and Sheffield.



Regional Media Ltd.
Brookfields Way, Manvers, Wath-upon-Deerne, Rotherham, S63 5DL
T: 01709 768000 | F: 01709 768010

Registered in England, No 9512870 | VAT REG No. GB 210 3937 42
Registered Address: Brookfields Way, Manvers, Wath-upon-Deerne, Rotherham, S63 5DL

2)

No internal manuals other than the company handbook, which is contractual and features company rules and regulations etc.

3)

3.1 We fully comply with the Editor's Code.

All reporters are fully qualified and have undertaken law courses.

All staff have copies of the Editor's Code of Practice and McNae's Essential Law for Journalists and refer to these on a regular basis.

Our complaints-handling process

We will accept complaints by phone, email, letter, in person or via social media and the complaint will at first be handled by a reporter and, if a conclusion is not reached, escalated to newsdesk and then the editor, who records and keeps details of all complaints, even if a conclusion has been agreed.

We will always attempt to deal with the complaint on the day it is made or, if that is not possible due to, for example, a reporter's absence, as soon as possible afterwards — always within seven days.

We will always attempt to come to a conclusion that is satisfactory to both parties, which may result in a correction published in a position in the paper agreed with the complainant, an apology, or sometimes it may simply be that a discussion/meeting clears the air.



If an agreement cannot be reached we will refer the complainant to IPSO and its complaints procedure, which we will then follow.

All complaints are logged with and by myself/the editor.

All complainants are made aware of the code of practice by phone, email or letter depending on how the complaint was originated or how they have requested communication to be carried out.

The contacts of all editorial staff are on page two of our publications and staff do make complainants aware of IPSO and the complaints procedure. IPSO details are available on our website.

Fact checking:

Our approach is always to verify sources and authenticate documents.

We would never print a story involving evidence contained within a document having not seen and carried out checks on the article ourselves.

We have regularly fought in court against attempts to restrict the use of names and addresses of victims in child sexual exploitation — and other — trials.

We have editorial meetings to discuss stories which we think may pose problems and to update on legal changes, any problems we have etc.

Details of any cases involving IPSO are circulated among staff and any complaints discussed.

All notebooks/materials are stored in the office and journalists always explain the purpose of a call/ visit and advise the interviewee how to contact them if they need any guidance etc.

Our editorial standards:

Our approach to editorial standards is the same as most media organisations.

We always verify our sources and authenticate documents and, if we cannot, we do not go ahead with the story. The reporters, newsdesk, sub-editors and myself, the editor, all adhere to this policy.



All our stories are published in line with guidance and law set out in the Editor's Code of Practice and McNae's Essential Law for Journalists, of which all reporters have copies and refer to. Staff are sent all legal updates and can attend refresher courses.

The IPSO logo is displayed on p2 of our publications and on the contacts page of our website.

Pre-publication guidance

If we were unsure or needed legal guidance ahead of publication we would contact IPSO for advice.

Other resources are also available to us for guidance such as the Society of Editors, McNae's Essential Law for Journalists and the Editors Code of Practice, of which all journalists have copies. Advisory notices and updates from the NMA are also distributed and staff encouraged to read them.

Our record on compliance

3.2 There have been no adverse findings of the Regulator over the past year and no steps have been taken by the Regulated Entity in response to any adverse adjudications by the Regulator.

Other incidents:

A small number of complainants have said they were taking their grievances to IPSO over the past year, but nothing has materialised.

One complaint, made by a [REDACTED] (reference IPSO: # [REDACTED] #) was sent to IPSO alleging breach of the code and after investigation you concluded: "We have read your complaint carefully, and have decided that it does not raise a possible breach of the Editors' Code."

[REDACTED] went straight to IPSO but did copy us in on his complaint.

We have, again, had numerous complaints from people who believed we had breached GDPR through printing names and addresses given in court or provided on court lists. We have explained the law regarding this to each person and reached conclusions where no further action has been taken. One person said we had cost him his chance of employment. We explained he could take his case to IPSO, but had no further communication.



This is a common complaint and we produced a piece explaining why we are allowed to publish court stories with names and addresses etc.

Training process

All staff are fully qualified journalists and are offered law refresher courses, plus digital courses. We have sent staff to Facebook/google conferences and the NCTJ skills conference.

Resources

Editor's Code of Practice and McNae's Essential Guide to Journalists.

Andrew Mosley

(Editorial director Regional Media Ltd)



Regional Media Ltd.
Brookfields Way, Manvers, Wath-upon-Deerne, Rotherham, S63 5DL
T: 01709 768000 | F: 01709 768010

Registered in England, No 9512870 | VAT REG No. GB 210 3937 42
Registered Address: Brookfields Way, Manvers, Wath-upon-Deerne, Rotherham, S63 5DL