

## Regional Media Ltd — Annual Report 2023

### 1)

#### 1.1: Rotherham Advertiser

The Weekender (formerly Dearne Valley Weekender)

Chase (now published in-paper on a monthly basis)

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

#### 1.2 Andrew Mosley (editorial director)

Contact: [andrew.mosley@rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:andrew.mosley@rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk)

**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 (13,700 circulation) began publishing on January 2, 1858 and covers the borough, while the Weekender (24,000 copies free) is around 30 years old and focusses on the Dearne Valley, which also takes in parts of Doncaster and Barnsley. Chase (13,700 copies inside the Advertiser) is inserted in the Rotherham Advertiser on the first Thursday of every month and is a lifestyle magazine.

As well as a 12-strong editorial team, there are four in production/IT, three in advertising plus one full-time and one freelance in accounts.



**Regional Media Ltd.**  
Brookfields Way, Manvers, Wath-upon-Dearne, 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-Dearne, Rotherham, S63 5DL

2) There are no internal manuals other than the company handbook, which is contractual and features company rules and regulations etc. Plus, all journalists use the Editors' Code.

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**

This has not changed. 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 story bylines and the website and staff do make complainants aware of IPSO and the complaints procedure. IPSO details are available on our website and on our letters pages.

### **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.



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## 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, McNaë'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.

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.

This is a common complaint and we produced a piece explaining why we are allowed to publish court stories with names and addresses etc – this is available on our website and we now refer complaints, particularly those who voice their grievances via social media, to this section.

I have dealt by phone with a number of people who have said we had no right to report on an inquest of a family member. I referred one to IPSO but I do not believe the complaint went any further.

## 3.2 Training process

All staff are fully qualified journalists and are offered law refresher courses, plus digital courses. We have sent staff to the NCTJ skills conference. I (Andrew Mosley) am attending this in March and have also visited several universities in my capacity as an industry advisor – while there I have taken the opportunity to talk with tutors about media law changes.



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This has also enabled me to talk with students/lecturers about ‘modern’ legal problems arising from social media.

I also issue reporters with industry updates regarding the usage of certain words/phrases in the reporting of, in particular, inquests, and stories involving medical issues.

**4:** There have been no adverse adjudications by the Regulator over the past year.

**5:** The editorial teams consists of the editor, news editor, four reporters, two sub-editors, two sports reporters and two photographers. Almost all work digitally as well as in print.

### **Resources**

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

**Andrew Mosley**

**(Editorial director Regional Media Ltd)**



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