



ANNUAL REPORT

2014



THE PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN EXIST TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS IN IRISH NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

ANGLE OF DESCENT

cover image by Niall Carson

*Red Bull diver Gary Hunt
performs a leap from the mast of
the Jeanie Johnston famine ship
past the Samuel Beckett Bridge,
on the River Liffey*

*All photographs used in this Report were taken by members of
the Press Photographers Association of Ireland and featured in
their 2015 Awards. Photographs were previously published in our
member publications. We are grateful for permission to reproduce
these images in our Annual Report.*

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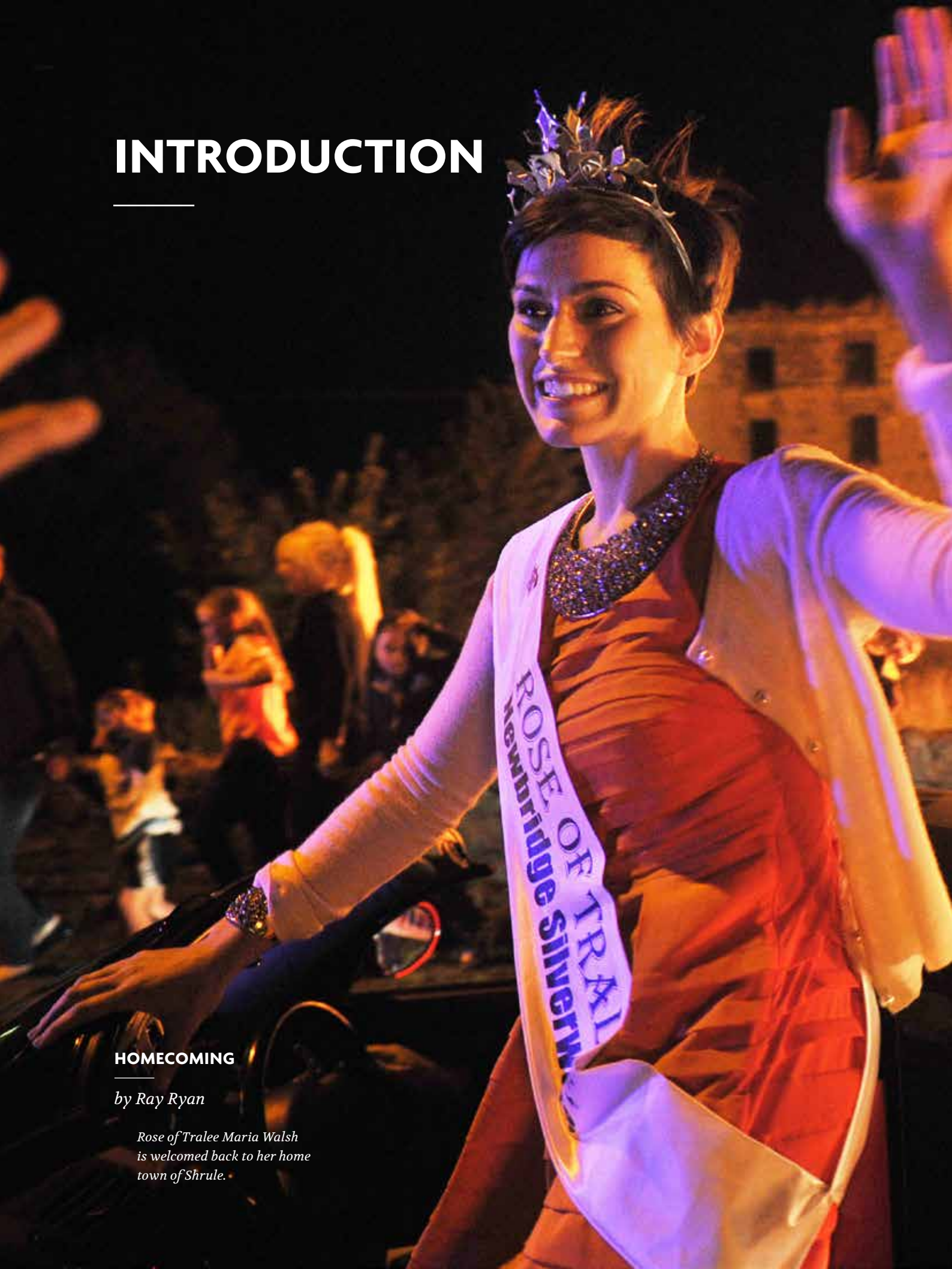
Code of Practice

INTRODUCTION

HOMECOMING

by Ray Ryan

*Rose of Tralee Maria Walsh
is welcomed back to her home
town of Shrile.*



PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

The Press Council of Ireland is responsible for the oversight of the professional principles embodied in the Code of Practice for Newspapers and Magazines, and with upholding the freedom of the press. It operates with the support and cooperation of member publications and journalists. It decides on appeals from decisions of the Press Ombudsman and on complaints referred to it directly by the Press Ombudsman. It is independent of both government and media.

OFFICE OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN

The Press Ombudsman's Office receives complaints from members of the public and seeks to resolve them by conciliation or mediation to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. Where conciliation or mediation is not possible, the Press Ombudsman will make a decision on the complaint based on the Code of Practice for Newspapers and Magazines. He has the option of referring some significant or complex complaints directly to the Press Council for decision.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Before the first Press Ombudsman, Professor John Horgan, retired in August 2014 he oversaw the publication of a Handbook for the Code of Practice for Newspapers and Magazines. This Handbook, which will be useful to any member of the public who is interested in how the Code is applied, was designed specifically with the needs of working journalists and editors in mind. Its purpose is to illustrate in practical terms and in accessible language the working of the Code of Practice.

The Handbook gives examples of complaints that have been upheld under each Principle of the Code drawing on the decisions of the Press Ombudsman and the Press Council. It gathers together many of the key decisions made by Professor Horgan during the seven years he spent in the role of Press Ombudsman. In a sense the Handbook can be seen as John's legacy to journalism and to his successor, Peter Feeney.

John Horgan was the first Press Ombudsman. Before the establishment of the Press Council he had been involved in several attempts to provide for a method of handling complaints against the press. When the press industry drew up a Code of Practice it was decided that an independent Press Ombudsman would be appointed to decide on complaints made against a member publication and, at the same time, a Press Council was established to decide, inter alia, on appeals against the decisions of the Press Ombudsman.

John was, therefore, in the key role in establishing the practical implications of the Code and of its individual Principles. In his thoughtful and thorough analyses he gave reasons for his decisions so that complainant and publisher alike might understand why he had taken a particular decision and not another.

During the four years as Chairman of the Press Council that I worked with John I came to know how wise his judgement is and how finely tuned is his intelligence and experience in arguing a complaint one way or the other. Many complaints made were relatively easy to decide. But some were extremely complicated with important implications for complainant and publisher. It is not an exaggeration to say that John agonised over such cases. He would frequently spend a lot of time before finalising his decision.



7,500-YEAR-OLD TREE REMAINS

by Joe O'Shaughnessy

If the decision went against the publication John was fearless in upholding the right of the complainant to have the decision published properly in the belief that publishers actually benefitted from our systems being seen to be rigorous in the application of the Code. Though it frequently pained him to know that a complainant would be disappointed if his or her complaint was not upheld he did not let such feelings interfere with his decision.

John was a central figure in the establishment of an independent working system for handling complaints against the press. I greatly enjoyed working with him and I wish both himself and his wife, Mary, every happiness in the future.

Since the period covered by this Report and its publication the Press Council lost one of its

members, Paul Drury. I would like to express my own deep sadness and that of all the members of the Council at his passing. He was a highly regarded member who always had something pertinent and relevant to contribute to our meetings. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Áine, and to his children.

Finally, may I on behalf of all the members of the Press Council welcome Peter Feeney to his role as Press Ombudsman. He brings a wealth of experience which will be beneficial to our work.



DÁITHÍ O'CEALLAIGH

Chairman

STATISTICS

IN 2014, A TOTAL OF 350 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED. THEY WERE PROCESSED AS FOLLOWS:



41 **DECIDED BY PRESS OMBUDSMAN**
(SEE PAGE 7 FOR BREAKDOWN)

20 **SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED**

16 **LIVE AT END 2014**

6 **CONSIDERATION POSTPONED DUE TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

3 **CLOSED/ WITHDRAWN**

111 **OUTSIDE REMIT**
(SEE PAGE 8 FOR BREAKDOWN)

3 **INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF A POSSIBLE BREACH OF THE CODE**

150 **COMPLAINT NOT PURSUED BY COMPLAINANT**

These were cases where the complainant was given the contact details for the publisher, together with advice on the Code of Practice and how to make a complaint, but decided not to pursue the matter further with the Office after the initial contact. Some of these complaints may subsequently have been satisfactorily resolved following the submission of the complaint directly to the editor of the publication concerned.



PUBLICATIONS

leading to complaint

229	NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS
39	REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS
10	ONLINE NEWS PUBLICATIONS
1	MAGAZINE
14	NON-MEMBER PUBLICATIONS
57	NOT INDICATED BY COMPLAINANT



COMPLAINTS

decided by Press Ombudsman

17	UPHELD
14	NOT UPHELD
6	SUFFICIENT REMEDIAL ACTION OFFERED OR TAKEN BY PUBLICATION
4	INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO MAKE A DECISION



COMPLAINTS

outside the remit of Office

32 UNAUTHORISED THIRD PARTY

Complaints from a person who was not personally affected by an article, or from a person who complained about an article written about another person, but without that person's permission to make a complaint.

23 OUT OF TIME

All information in relation to a complaint must be submitted within three months of publication of the article.

21 OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

These were for the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland.

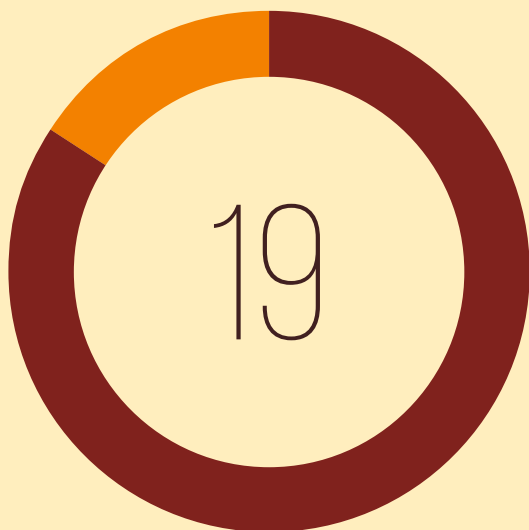
14 PUBLICATION NOT MEMBER OF PRESS COUNCIL

All national newspapers, most regional newspapers, many magazines and one online news publication are members.

12 MISCELLANEOUS

9 USER GENERATED CONTENT (UGC)

These are comments posted online by readers, usually at the bottom of articles.



APPEALS

considered by Press Council

16 NOT ALLOWED

3 ALLOWED

PRINCIPLES OF CODE OF PRACTICE FOR NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES CITED BY COMPLAINANTS

 2014
 2013

Many complainants submitted their complaint under more than one Principle of the Code of Practice, which is why the number of Principles cited is higher than the actual number of complaints received.

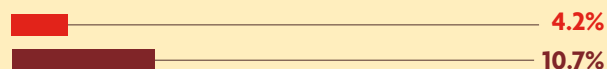
Also, it should be noted that a particular article can generate multiple complaints under certain Principles of the Code (which is why the number of complaints received under Principles 8 (Prejudice) and 9 (Children) were so high in 2014.

The full text of the Code of Practice is published on pages 28 and 29.

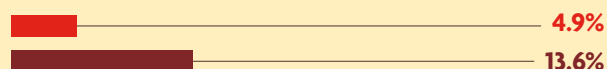
1. TRUTH AND ACCURACY



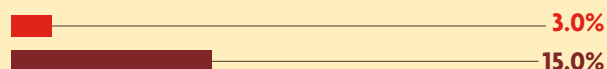
2. DISTINGUISHING FACT AND COMMENT



3. FAIRNESS AND HONESTY



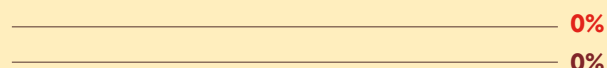
4. RESPECT FOR RIGHTS



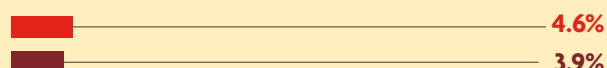
5. PRIVACY



6. PROTECTION OF SOURCE



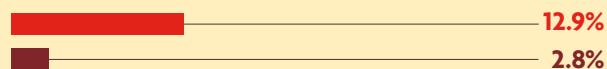
7. COURT REPORTING



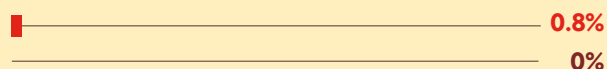
8. PREJUDICE



9. CHILDREN



10. PUBLICATION OF DECISION



PRESS OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

In September 2014 I had the privilege of taking over from Professor John Horgan as Press Ombudsman. I inherited an organisation that had benefitted from the wisdom and experience of my predecessor. Professor Horgan along with members of the Press Council of Ireland, the Case Officer, Bernie Grogan and the Office Manager, Miriam Laffan had put in place procedures and practices that had established the Press Ombudsman's Office on a purposeful basis.

The Press Ombudsman's Office, if it is to be a meaningful and useful institution, must retain the confidence, in the first instance, of the general public. Readers of newspapers, magazines and online news publications must find that they have access to an independent and fair means of seeking redress when something is published that appears to them to not meet the standards that all member publications of the Press Council signed up to. These are found in the Code of Practice for Newspapers and Magazines (see page 28). Before the establishment of the Press Ombudsman's Office in 2007 this service did not exist and a dissatisfied reader seeking redress could only approach a publication in the hope that his or her complaint would be given the consideration it deserved. If a publication was dismissive of a complaint there was little that a complainant could do. With the establishment of the Press Ombudsman's Office and the Press Council of Ireland a real alternative became available.

Over the last seven years many member publications have put in place internal mechanisms to deal with complaints from readers.

Engaging meaningfully with readers who complain has become for many publications the norm.

An example of this is found in the number of complaints received in this Office which are resolved without the need to initiate formal conciliation processes undertaken by our Case Officer. These are complaints in which both parties, the complainant and the publication, find a satisfactory resolution. This may be the publication of a letter, a clarification, a correction or an apology. It may also be a simple explanation justifying what was published. It may be as little as a promise to take account of the complainant's views the next time the subject matter is reported in the newspaper.

The existence of the Press Ombudsman's Office has spurred on member publications to take more seriously readers' and users' communications.

In an era of widespread use of social media with a public expectation of participation in dialogue between users and providers it makes absolute sense for publications to invest in meaningful exchanges with their readers. I am absolutely certain that the embracing of this process by member publications has resulted in less complaints entering the formal complaints processes of the Press Ombudsman's Office.

The second group that must retain confidence in the Press Ombudsman's Office is the publishing industry. Membership of the Press Council is voluntary. That means that newspapers, magazines and online news publications must see a value in their membership. This value must not be found in any favourable decisions or partisan attitudes by this Office. It has to be based on an appreciation of the value of adherence to the Code of Practice and an acceptance of the fairness of decisions reached by the Press Ombudsman and, if appealed, by the Press Council.

We are in a period when there is growing anti-establishment sentiment and cynicism towards everyone in public life. This is manifest most clearly in social media. Some victims of this growing cynicism express the view that journalists and commentators in print, broadcast and online play a significant part in the growing hostility in public life towards those who put themselves

forward for public service. But the alternative view is also frequently heard, that the media is part of the establishment and does not fulfil its "fourth estate" function. Being criticised from both sides may provide the media with some comfort, but there is no room for complacency. Irish society and in particular public life is changing rapidly and for the media to remain relevant it is essential that the public find news and analysis that is unfettered and independent.

2014 was the first full year of membership of the Press Council for TheJournal.ie. Adding this online news publication to the list of membership is important for the Press Ombudsman's Office as, beyond question, more and more journalism is migrating from print to online. It is very important that Press Council membership encompasses as much online news and reportage as possible.

The public's right to speedy and fair redress should be available across all platforms, not just print.

In addition to TheJournal.ie the extensive online operations of print publications are also within the remit of this Office. The one area of online operations that is not currently covered by the Press Ombudsman's Office is that of comments from users published under online articles. The hosting or publishing of these comments exists in a legally ill-defined grey area that will only be clarified by the establishment of legal precedents or new legislation. In the meantime this Office is unable to consider complaints about user generated content.

In taking over as Press Ombudsman my number one priority will be winning and retaining public confidence in the independence and usefulness of the operation of the Press Ombudsman's Office.

It is important that the public are aware of the services we provide and that their concerns about newspapers, magazines and online news publications can be addressed. With this in mind, there is one practice that I would like to draw to the attention of newspaper editors. It is the necessity to exercise care in the writing of headlines. The purpose of the headline is to draw readers' attention to the article. But sometimes in enthusiasm to attract notice the contents of the headline can over-state the contents of the article or in the worst case misrepresent the contents of the article. This can lead to a breach of the Code of Practice as the consideration of any complaint takes into account both the headline and the article. The fact that two different journalists may have written the article and the headline is not taken into account in coming to a decision. A complaint was upheld in December 2014 where the decision was significantly influenced by exaggerated claims in the headline.

In previous annual reports at this stage my predecessor, Professor John Horgan, outlined some of his major decisions during the twelve months under review. As I only took over the Office in September 2014 I do not think it is appropriate to discuss decisions that were made before I became Press Ombudsman. Of the

decisions taken from September 2014 I would like to draw attention to two decisions in regard to privacy. In both instances the complaints were not upheld but important considerations about privacy were raised. I have no doubt that the respect for privacy is, and will continue to be, an important issue for the Irish public and that editors need to consider very carefully publishing private details of individuals and only do so when it is in the public interest.

A WOMAN AND THE IRISH SUNDAY MIRROR

This is a complaint where a woman was named as the sister of a suspect, now deceased, in a report on a series of murders that had taken place two decades ago. She complained that Principle 5 (Privacy) had been breached. I did not uphold the complaint. The right to privacy is important but the public interest may require on occasion to recognise that the right is limited. In this instance I decided that the newspaper did not breach Principle 5 as the report was largely based on a single interviewee and his relationship to the deceased established his bona fides. Regrettably this required the newspaper to name the woman who complained. I was influenced in coming to my decision by the fact that the newspaper did not give any additional details about the woman other than her name.

MRS CATHERINE GARVEY AND THE CLARE CHAMPION

The Clare Champion reported on a burglary that had taken place in a village in County Clare. The family who were burgled were unhappy that the report included details of the actual amount of

money stolen in the burglary. They claimed that it would have been sufficient to have reported that a “substantial amount of cash” or an “amount of cash” had been stolen. The complainant claimed that Principle 5 (Privacy) had been breached. I did not uphold the complaint as I believed the sum of money was so large that only giving the figure would give readers an understanding of what was involved in this particular crime. I felt that only by giving this information would readers of the newspaper be made aware of the dangers of keeping very large amounts of money in their homes. As with the previous complaint I was influenced in my decision by the careful way the newspaper excluded naming the family who were burgled or giving their address.

In both decisions I ruled against the complainants, not because I don’t believe that privacy is important but because I felt that in both instances the public interest was better served by giving the information included in the reports. In both cases I noted the careful way in which the newspapers gave the minimal possible amount of information necessary.

2015 is going to be a challenging year for Irish journalism with growing attention being given to the campaigning of the political parties and independents in the lead in to the general election.

For the wellbeing of the public realm it is vitally important that the public retain confidence in the integrity of Irish journalism at a time of intense public debate and at a time when all institutions

(including the media) are under increasingly sceptical oversight.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude to Dáithí O’Ceallaigh, Chairman of the Press Council, Áine Hyland, Deputy Chairman and all the other members of the Council. Taking over from my predecessor was made much easier because of their support, wisdom and experience. This support was also found in abundance in the help I have received since taking office from Bernie Grogan, Case Officer, and Miriam Laffan, Office Manager.



PETER FEENEY

Press Ombudsman



THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

by Lorraine O'Sullivan

*Competitors in the An Post Rás
na mBan cycle along the Wild
Atlantic Way*



SERVICES PROVIDED

Our statistics for the year are published on page 6 to 9, but these numbers do not give a full picture of the range and type of work that we carry out throughout the year. While much of our work is related to the processing of complaints from readers, there is a lot of informal, or behind the scenes work, that is also carried out, and which represents a very important part of the service we provide.

We are always available to give members of the public, editors and journalists, advice about the implementation and general implications of the Code of Practice for Newspapers and Magazines, under which all complaints are considered. We will help to explain the Principles of the Code in more detail, and can discuss with complainants which Principle or Principles might be more appropriate to their complaint.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO HAVE A COMPLAINT ACCEPTED?

When a complaint about an alleged breach of the Code of Practice is received in the Office, we must carefully consider all of the information received to ensure that, before it is taken up with an editor, all of the requirements for making a complaint have been fully met. This means that each complaint is examined, in the first instance, to ensure that

- the complaint is about a member publication (all national newspapers, most regional newspapers, many magazines and one online news publication are members)
- the person making the complaint is personally affected by the article, or the journalistic behaviour, complained about
- the complaint sets out the Principle or Principles of the Code of Practice it is felt were breached
- the complaint contains sufficient evidence of a possible breach of the Principle or Principles of the Code of Practice cited
- the subject matter of the complaint is not the subject matter of ongoing court proceedings, and
- the complaint relates to material published within the last three months.

Complaints that meet these criteria are taken up with the editor of the publication in question, and a process of conciliation takes place in an attempt to resolve the complaint speedily to the satisfaction of the complainant.

HOW CAN I HAVE MY COMPLAINT RESOLVED?

Complaints can be resolved in a number of ways. For example, by the publication of a correction, clarification or apology, by the publication of a right of reply, either in the form of a letter to the editor or otherwise, a private letter from the editor to the complainant, an assurance about future coverage of the subject matter of the complaint or the amendment or deletion of online material. There is no limit to the range and type of agreement that can be reached between editors and complainants through the conciliation process.

Complaints that cannot be resolved are referred to the Press Ombudsman for his consideration as to whether or not the article or the journalistic behaviour complained about breached the Code.

All complaints resolved during the year, and all complaints that have been made the subject of a decision by the Press Ombudsman or Press Council, are published on our website, so that complainants can obtain information at a glance on particular issues or particular Principles of the Code. The website's search engine makes this extremely easy.

CAN I MEET THE EDITOR TO DISCUSS MY COMPLAINT?

We provide a mediation service for complainants and editors. Mediation involves the voluntary agreement of both the complainant and the editor to attend a meeting, facilitated by our Case Officer, to discuss the complaint on a

confidential basis. The aim of mediation is to give the complainant and the editor an opportunity to develop a shared understanding of the complaint and to work towards reaching a mutually satisfactory resolution of the matter.

HOW DOES THE CODE OF PRACTICE WORK?

If a complaint cannot be resolved through conciliation or mediation, it is referred to the Press Ombudsman for his consideration as to whether or not the Code of Practice was breached. We produced a Handbook during the year on the Code, to illustrate, in practical terms and in accessible language, how the Press Ombudsman interprets the Code in relation to complaints. The Handbook is intended for the information of the general public, editors and journalists, and it gives an in-depth analysis of the general considerations taken into account by the Press Ombudsman when deciding on complaints. It is available on our website and on request.

We hold information seminars and workshops for students of Journalism and Media Studies and for practising journalists so as to ensure that they have a good working knowledge of the Code of Practice, and how it should be applied.

We give a wide range of assistance and advice to complainants who may not wish to make a formal complaint about a particular article, but who nonetheless require guidance on how to proceed with an issue relating to the media.

MY FAMILY HAS BECOME PART OF A MAJOR NEWS STORY AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

There are occasions when people find themselves in circumstances where they have suddenly and unexpectedly become the subject of intense media interest. This is often at times of great tragedy and distress. On occasions like this, we can issue an advisory notice to editors to let them know, on a confidential basis, the wishes of the person or family in relation to contacts from the media. Such notices can also be used to facilitate appropriate and necessary coverage of particularly distressing events. An example of this was when a family whose son had been violently murdered abroad learned that two individuals were to be extradited to face charges in connection with the murder. The mother of the murdered man contacted the office to advise that there were a number of young children among the family who were not aware of the more horrific details of her son's murder, and whom she was anxious to shield from undue distress. We advised editors that the family had asked if they would bear this in mind when making editorial decisions relating to the coverage of the case.

MY ORGANISATION REPRESENTS PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSTANTLY THE SUBJECT OF MEDIA STORIES – CAN YOU HELP US?

We are also available to assist different members of the community, and their representative organisations, in dealing with the press. For instance, during the year the Press Ombudsman attended a meeting of the Victims of Crime

Group, organised by the Department of Justice and Equality, to ensure that victims of crime and their families were made aware of the functions and powers of our Office, and how we might be of assistance to them. He also met the Ombudsman for Children to discuss the coordination of activities between both offices on matters of common interest relating to the welfare and media coverage of children, and particularly children in crisis situations.

We sometimes find ourselves dealing with pre-publication concerns of individuals who are concerned that a story that is to be published about them may be incorrect, or may breach their privacy. We will give advice to such individuals on how they can ensure that a publication is aware of any concerns they may have in advance of the story being published.

We are happy to consider requests from representative organisations or groups to speak to their members about the work that we do, and how we might be of assistance to them.



*Miriam Laffan, PA/Administration
Peter Feeney, Press Ombudsman
Bernie Grogan, Case Officer*





COME BYE O'ER THE HILLS

by Valerie O'Sullivan

Sheep farmer, Donal Foley, with his dog Jake, bringing down his ewes for scanning, on his land at Lough Accose, Glencar, McGillicuddy's Reeks, Co Kerry

PRESS COUNCIL

The Press Council of Ireland has 13 members who are appointed by an Independent Appointments Committee. The members of the Appointments Committee are Mr Dáithí O'Ceallaigh (Chairman of the Press Council), Dr Maurice Manning, Mr David Begg and Ms Miriam Hederman-O'Brien.

Seven members of the Press Council, including the Chairman, are Independent members who are appointed following a process of public advertisement, short-listing and interview. The remaining six members are drawn from the press industry. During 2014 two Independent members, Mr Pat O'Connor and Mr Peter Feeney, retired from the Council and Mr Brendan Butler and Ms Denise Charlton were appointed to fill the vacancies.

The members of the Press Council, who ex officio constitute the Board of Directors of The Press Council of Ireland Limited, were, on 31 December 2014, as follows:

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr Dáithí O'Ceallaigh (Chairman)

Professor Áine Hyland

Ms Patricia Sisk Taormina

Ms Ann Carroll

Mr Denis Doherty

Mr Brendan Butler

Ms Denise Charlton

MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE PRESS INDUSTRY

Ms Norah Casey

Mr Michael Brophy

Mr Paul Drury

Mr Deaglán de Breadún

Mr Patrick Smyth

Mr Dave O'Connell

CODE COMMITTEE

The Code Committee is responsible for keeping the Code of Practice for Newspapers and Magazines under review, and updating it when necessary, in consultation with the Press Council.

MEMBERS OF THE CODE COMMITTEE

Mr Brendan Keenan (Chairman)

Mr Kieran McDaid (Star Newspapers)

Mr Colm MacGinty (Sunday World)

Mr Cormac Burke (INM)

Mr Colin Kerr (Euro Times)

Mr Chris Dooley (The Irish Times)

Mr David Burke (Tuam Herald)

Mr Ian McGuinness (NUJ)

Mr Peter Feeney (Press Ombudsman) (ex officio)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Press Council held its Annual General Meeting on 29 May 2014. The meeting approved the company accounts, and re-appointed Messrs. Grant Thornton as the company's auditors.



MEMBERS

photograph provided courtesy of The Irish Times

Back row:

*Mr Denis Doherty
Mr Deaglán de Breadún
Mr Dave O'Connell
Ms Denise Charlton
Mr Patrick Smyth
Mr Brendan Butler*

Front row:

*Ms Ann Carroll
Professor Áine Hyland
Mr Dáithí O'Ceallaigh (Chairman),
Ms Patricia Sisk Taormina
Ms Norah Casey*

Missing from photograph:

*Mr Michael Brophy
Mr Paul Drury*



APPEALS

The Press Council considers appeals of decisions made by the Press Ombudsman. Either party to a complaint which is the subject of a decision by the Press Ombudsman can appeal that decision to the Press Council if they feel that there has been an error in procedure, or if significant new information is available that could not have been or was not made available to the Press Ombudsman before he made his decision, or if they feel that there was an error in the Press Ombudsman's application of the Code of Practice.

- During 2014 the Press Council considered nineteen appeals.
- The Press Council allowed three of the appeals submitted, and affirmed the decision of the Press Ombudsman in sixteen cases.
- Six of the appeals were submitted by publications and thirteen submitted by complainants.

The Press Council also considers complaints referred to it directly by the Press Ombudsman. Such referrals are made at the discretion of the Press Ombudsman. No referrals were made in 2014.

All decisions of the Press Council in relation to appeals and referrals are available on the Press Council's website www.presscouncil.ie, or on request directly from the Press Council.

FINANCE REPORT

The finances of the Press Council of Ireland are provided, under the terms of its Articles of Association, by the Administrative Committee of the Press Council, which was chaired in 2014 by Professor Áine Hyland, an independent member of the Council.

The Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman are fully funded by member publications and each member title of the Council is levied in accordance with formulae determined by the Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee is charged with making full provision for the administrative needs of the Press Council and of the Office of the Press Ombudsman including funding, premises and staffing. It meets approximately eight times a year to approve funding arrangements, and receives reports on all expenditure. The Committee also agrees annual budgets with the Council.

The costs for 2014 of the Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman, together with comparative figures for the previous year, are as follows:

	2014	2013
Personnel costs	€315,041	€324,709
Premises and establishment	€89,858	€80,784
General Expenses	€80,910	€86,661
Financial Costs	€338	€608
TOTAL	€486,147	€492,762

The Administrative Committee includes representatives of National Newspapers of Ireland, Local Ireland, Magazines Ireland and the National Union of Journalists. It determines its own membership, with the exception of the Chairman, who is appointed by the Press Council.

IN 2014 THE MEMBERS WERE

Professor Áine Hyland (Chairman)

Ms Grace Aungier

Mr Seamus Dooley

Mr Johnny O'Hanlon

Mr Eoin McVey

Mr Oliver Keenaghan

Mr David McDonagh

Mr Adrian Acosta

Mr Owen Cullen

Ms Dara McMahon

Mr Vincent Crowley

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Herald

Independent House,
27-32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1
+353 1 705 5333
www.independent.ie

Irish Daily Mail

Associated Newspapers (Ireland),
3rd Floor Embassy House, Herbert Park
Lane, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
+353 1 637 5800
www.dailymail.co.uk

Irish Mail on Sunday

Associated Newspapers (Ireland), 3rd
Floor Embassy House, Herbert Park
Lane, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
+353 1 637 5800
www.dailymail.co.uk

Irish Daily Mirror

Park House, 4th Floor,
191 - 197 North Circular Road, Dublin 7
+353 1 868 8600
www.irishmirror.ie

Irish Sunday Mirror

Park House, 4th Floor,
191 - 197 North Circular Road, Dublin 7
+353 1 868 8600
www.irishmirror.ie

Irish Daily Star

Independent Star Ltd, Independent
House, 27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1
+353 1 499 3400
www.thestar.ie

Irish Independent

Independent House, 27-32 Talbot
Street, Dublin 1
+353 1 705 5333
www.independent.ie

Irish Sun

4th Floor, Bishop's Square,
Redmond's Hill, Dublin 2
+353 1 479 2579
www.thesun.ie

The Irish Times

The Irish Times Building,
PO Box 74, 24-28 Tara Street, Dublin 2
+353 1 675 8000
www.irishtimes.com

Irish Examiner

Examiner Publications (Cork) Limited,
Linn Dubh, Assumption Road,
Blackpool, Cork
+353 21 4272722
www.irishexaminer.com

Sunday Business Post

Hambleden House,
19/26 Pembroke Street Lower, Dublin 2
+353 1 602 6000
www.businesspost.ie

Sunday Independent

Independent House, 27-32 Talbot
Street, Dublin 1
+353 1 705 5333
www.independent.ie

Sunday Times

4th Floor, Bishop's Square,
Redmond's Hill, Dublin 2
+353 1 479 2400
www.Sunday-times.ie

Sunday World

5th Floor, Independent House,
27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1
+353 1 884 8973
www.sundayworld.com

Irish Farmers Journal

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12
+353 1 419 9599
www.farmersjournal.ie

REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Anglo Celt

Anglo Celt, Station House,
Cavan, Co. Cavan
+353 49 4331100
www.anglocelt.ie

Bray People

Channing House,
Upper Row Street, Co. Wexford
+353 53 9140100
www.independent.ie

Carlow Nationalist

Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow
+353 59 9170100
www.carlow-nationalist.ie

Carlow People

Channing House,
Upper Row Street, Co. Wexford
+353 53 9140100
www.independent.ie

Clare Champion

Barrack Street, Ennis, Co. Clare
+353 65 6828105
www.clarechampion.ie

Connacht Sentinel *

15 Market Street, Galway
+353 91 536222
www.connachttribune.ie

Connaught Telegraph

Cavendish Lane, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
+353 94 9021711
www.con-telegraph.ie

Connacht Tribune

15 Market Street, Galway
+353 91 536222
www.connachttribune.ie

Derry Journal

113 - 118 Duncreggan Road,
Derry, BT48 0AA
+0044 0287 127 2200
www.derryjournal.com

Derry News

26 Balliniska Rd, Springtown
Industrial Est, Derry, BT48 0NA
+0044 28 7129 6600
www.derrynews.net

** Connacht Sentinel ceased
publication in December 2014*

Donegal Democrat

Larkin House, Oldtown Road,
Donegal PE27DS
+353 74 9128000
www.donegaldemocrat.ie

Donegal News

St. Anne's Court, High Road,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
+353 74 9121014
www.donegalnews.com

Donegal Peoples Press

Larkin House, Oldtown Road,
Donegal
+353 74 9128000
www.donegaldemocrat.ie

Dundalk Democrat

7 Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth
+353 42 9334058
www.dundalkdemocrat.ie

Enniscorthy Echo

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy,
Co Wexford
+353 53 9259900
www.theecho.ie

Enniscorthy Guardian

Channing House,
Upper Row Street, Co. Wexford
+353 53 9140100
www.independent.ie

Evening Echo

Examiner Publications (Cork) Limited,
Linn Dubh, Assumption Road,
Blackpool, Cork
+353 21 4272722
www.eecho.ie

Gorey Echo

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford
+353 53 9422565
www.theecho.ie

Gorey Guardian

Channing House,
Upper Row Street, Co. Wexford
+353 53 9140100
www.independent.ie

Kildare Nationalist

Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow
+353 59 9170100
www.kildare-nationalist.ie

*** Metro Herald ceased publication
in December 2014*

Kilkenny People

34 High Street, Kilkenny
+353 56 7721015
www.kilkennypeople.ie

Laois Nationalist

Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow
+353 59 9170100
www.laois-nationalist.ie

Leinster Express

Dublin Road, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois
+353 57 8621666
www.leinsterexpress.ie

Leinster Leader

19 South Main Street,
Naas, Co. Kildare
+353 45 897302
www.leinsterleader.ie

Leitrim Observer

3 Hartley Business Park,
Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
+353 71 9620025
www.leitrimobserver.ie

Limerick Chronicle

54 O'Connell Street, Limerick
+353 61 214500
www.limerickleader.ie

Limerick Leader

54 O'Connell Street, Limerick
+353 61 214500
www.limerickleader.ie

Longford Leader

Leader House, Dublin Road, Longford
+353 43 3345241
www.longfordleader.ie

Mayo News

The Fairgreen, Westport, Co. Mayo
+353 98 25311
www.mayonews.ie

Meath Chronicle

Market Square, Navan, Co. Meath
+353 46 9079600
www.meathchronicle.ie

Metro Herald **

1st floor, Independent House,
27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1
+353 1 705 5055
www.metroherald.ie

Munster Express

37 The Quay, Waterford
+353 51 872141
www.munster-express.ie

Nationalist/Clonmel

Queen Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
+353 52 6172500
www.Nationalist.ie

Nenagh Guardian

13 Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
+353 67 31214
www.nenagh-guardian.ie

New Ross Echo

17 Selskar Street, Wexford, Co Wexford
+353 51 445062
www.theecho.ie

New Ross Standard

Channing House, Upper Row Street,
Co. Wexford
+353 53 9140100
www.independent.ie

Northern Standard

The Diamond, Monaghan,
Co. Monaghan
+353 47 82188
www.northernstandard.ie

Offaly Express - Online Only

Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
+353 57 8621666
www.offalyexpress.ie

Roscommon Herald

St. Patricks Street, Boyle, Co.
Roscommon
+353 71 9662004
www.roscommonherald.ie

Sligo Champion

Connacht House, Markievicz Road,
Sligo
+353 71 9169222
www.sligochampion.ie

Sligo Weekender

4 Teeling Street, Sligo
+353 71 9174900
www.sligoweekender.ie

Southern Star

Ilen Street, Skibereen, Cork
+353 28 21200
www.southernstar.ie

The Argus

Partnership Court, Park Street,
Dundalk, Co. Louth
+353 42 9334632
www.independent.ie

The Corkman

The Spa, Mallow, Co. Cork
+353 22 42394
www.independent.ie

The Drogheda Independent

9 Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth
+353 41 9838658
www.independent.ie

The Fingal Independent

9 Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth
+353 41 9838658
www.independent.ie

The Kerryman

Clash, Tralee, Co. Kerry
+353 66 7145560
www.independent.ie

Tipperary Star

Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
+353 504 21122
www.tipperarystar.ie

Tuam Herald

Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway
+353 93 24183
www.tuamherald.ie

Waterford News & Star

25 Michael Street, Waterford
+353 51 874951
www.waterford-news.ie

Western People

Tone Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo
+353 96 60999
www.westernpeople.com

Westmeath Examiner

Blackhall Place, Mullingar, Co.
Westmeath
+353 44 9346700
www.westmeathexaminer.ie

Westmeath Independent

11 Sean Costello Street,
Athlone, Co. Westmeath
+353 90 6472003
www.westmeathindependent.ie

Wexford Echo

17 Selskar Street, Wexford, Co Wexford
+353 53 9142948
www.theecho.ie

Wexford People

Channing House, Upper Row Street,
Co. Wexford
+353 53 9140100
www.independent.ie

Wicklow People

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Co. Wexford
+353 53 9140100
www.independent.ie

MAGAZINES**Accountancy Ireland**

Chartered Accountants House,
47 - 49 Pearse Street, Dublin 2
+ 353 1 637 7240
www.accountancyireland.ie

Auto Ireland

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 16
+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

Auto Trade Journal

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
+353 (0) 90 6625676
www.autopub.ie

Business Plus

30 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4
+353 (1) 660 8400
www.bizplus.ie

Decorate extend & renovate

Self Build Ireland Ltd,
119 Cahard Road, Ballinahinch,
Saintfield, Co. Down, BT24 7LA
+353 48 97510790
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Dundrum

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 16
+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

Eat Out Magazine

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 16
+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

Euro Times

ESCRS, Temple House, Temple Road,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin
+353 1 209 1100
www.eurotimes.org

Food & Wine Magazine

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 16
+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

Hotpress

13 Trinity Street, Dublin 2
+353 1 241 1500
www.hotpress.ie

Ireland of the Welcomes

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+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

Irish Auto Trade Yearbook & Diary

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
+353 (0) 90 6625676
www.autotrade.ie

Irish Bodyshop Journal

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
+353 (0) 90 6625676
www.autopub.ie

Irish Tatler Magazine

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 16
+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

ITIA Yearbook & Diary

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
+353 (0) 90 6625676
www.autopub.ie

Law Society Gazette

Blackhall Place, Dublin 7
+353 1 672 4828
www.lawsocietygazette.ie

**Motorshow - Annual Car
Buyers Guide**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
+353 (0) 90 6625676
www.autopub.ie

RTE Guide

RTE Publishing, RTE, Donnybrook,
Dublin 4
+353 1 2083179
www.rteguide.ie

SIN

Sin Magazine, C/o Students Union,
Aras na Mac Leinn, NUI Galway
+353 91 493262
www.sin.ie

Siócháin

Garda Sióchána Retired Members
Association, 8 Harrington Street,
Dublin 8
+353 1 478 1525
www.gardaretired.com

The Gloss

Gloss Publications Ltd., The Courtyard,
40 Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
+353 1 275 5130
www.irishtimes.com/thegloss

The Irish Field

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12
+ 353 1 4051100
www.irishfield.ie

The Irish Journalist

NUJ, 2nd floor, Spencer House,
Spencer Row, Off Store Street, Dublin 1
+353 1 8170340
www.nuj.org.uk

Trinity News

6 Trinity College, Dublin 2
+353 1 8962335
www.trinitynews.ie

TYRE Trade Journal

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
+353 (0) 90 6625676
www.autopub.ie

U Magazine

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 16
+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

Village

Ormond Quay Publishing,
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+353 1 8735824
www.villagemagazine.ie

WMB

2nd Floor, Paradigm House, Dundrum
Office Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
+353 1 296 4025
www.womenmeanbusiness.com

Woman's Way

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+ 353 1 240 5300
www.harmonia.ie

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3rd Floor, Lattin Hall,
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www.thejournal.ie

CODE OF PRACTICE

for Newspapers and Magazines

PREAMBLE

The freedom to publish is vital to the right of the people to be informed. This freedom includes the right of a newspaper to publish what it considers to be news, without fear or favour, and the right to comment upon it.

Freedom of the press carries responsibilities. Members of the press have a duty to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. This Code sets the benchmark for those standards.

It is the duty of the Press Ombudsman and Press Council of Ireland to ensure that it is honoured in the spirit as well as in the letter, and the duty of publications to assist them in that task.

In dealing with complaints, the Ombudsman and Press Council will give consideration to what they perceive to be the public interest. It is for them to define the public interest in each case, but the general principle is that the public interest is invoked in relation to a matter capable of affecting the people at large so that they may legitimately be interested in receiving and the press legitimately interested in providing information about it.

PRINCIPLE 1 TRUTH AND ACCURACY

1.1 In reporting news and information, newspapers and magazines shall strive at all times for truth and accuracy.

1.2 When a significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distorted report or picture has been published, it shall be corrected promptly and with due prominence.

1.3 When appropriate, a retraction, apology, clarification, explanation or response shall be published promptly and with due prominence.

PRINCIPLE 2 DISTINGUISHING FACT AND COMMENT

2.1 Newspapers and magazines are entitled to advocate strongly their own views on topics.

2.2 Comment, conjecture, rumour and unconfirmed reports shall not be reported as if they were fact.

2.3 Readers are entitled to expect that the content of a publication reflects the best judgment of editors and writers and has not been inappropriately influenced by undisclosed interests. Wherever relevant, any significant financial interest of an organisation should be disclosed. Writers should disclose significant potential conflicts of interest to their editors.

PRINCIPLE 3 FAIRNESS AND HONESTY

3.1 Newspapers and magazines shall strive at all times for fairness and honesty in the procuring and publishing of news and information.

3.2 Publications shall not obtain information, photographs or other material through misrepresentation or subterfuge, unless justified by the public interest.

3.3 Journalists and photographers must not obtain, or seek to obtain, information and photographs through harassment, unless their actions are justified in the public interest.

PRINCIPLE 4 RESPECT FOR RIGHTS

Everyone has constitutional protection for his or her good name. Newspapers and magazines shall not knowingly publish matter based on malicious misrepresentation or unfounded accusations, and must take reasonable care in checking facts before publication.

PRINCIPLE 5 **PRIVACY**

5.1 Privacy is a human right, protected as a personal right in the Irish Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights, which is incorporated into Irish law. The private and family life, home and correspondence of everyone must be respected.

5.2 Readers are entitled to have news and comment presented with respect for the privacy and sensibilities of individuals. However, the right to privacy should not prevent publication of matters of public record or in the public interest.

5.3 Sympathy and discretion must be shown at all times in seeking information in situations of personal grief or shock. In publishing such information, the feelings of grieving families should be taken into account. This should not be interpreted as restricting the right to report judicial proceedings.

5.4 Public persons are entitled to privacy. However, where a person holds public office, deals with public affairs, follows a public career, or has sought or obtained publicity for his activities, publication of relevant details of his private life and circumstances may be justifiable where the information revealed relates to the validity of the person's conduct, the credibility of his public statements, the value of his publicly expressed views or is otherwise in the public interest.

5.5 Taking photographs of individuals in private places without their consent is not acceptable, unless justified by the public interest.

PRINCIPLE 6 **PROTECTION OF SOURCES**

Journalists shall protect confidential sources of information.

PRINCIPLE 7 **COURT REPORTING**

Newspapers and magazines shall strive to ensure that court reports (including the use of photographs) are fair and accurate, are not prejudicial to the right to a fair trial and that the presumption of innocence is respected.

PRINCIPLE 8 **PREJUDICE**

Newspapers and magazines shall not publish material intended or likely to cause grave offence or stir up hatred against an individual or group on the basis of their race, religion, nationality, colour, ethnic origin, membership of the travelling community, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, illness, or age.

PRINCIPLE 9 **CHILDREN**

9.1 Newspapers and magazines shall take particular care in seeking and presenting information or comment about a child under the age of 16.

9.2 Journalists and editors should have regard for the vulnerability of children, and in all dealings with children should bear in mind the age of the child, whether parental or other adult consent has been obtained for such dealings, the sensitivity of the subject-matter, and what circumstances if any make the story one of public interest. Young people should be free to complete their time at school without unnecessary intrusion. The fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian must not be used as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life.

PRINCIPLE 10 **PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN / PRESS COUNCIL**

10.1 When requested or required by the Press Ombudsman and/or the Press Council to do so, newspapers and magazines shall publish the decision in relation to a complaint with due prominence.

10.2 The content of this Code will be reviewed at regular intervals.



ADDRESS

1, 2 & 3 Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2

PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND OFFICE OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN

T: 01 6489130 **F:** 01 6740046 **T:** Lo-call 1890 208 080 **F:** 01 6740046

www.presscouncil.ie www.pressombudsman.ie