

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Press Council of Ireland and Office of the Press Ombudsman



The Press Council of Ireland and Office of the Press Ombudsman exist to safeguard and promote professional and ethical standards in Irish newspapers, magazines and online news publications.

We are grateful to Press Photographers Ireland for permission to use award-winning and shortlisted photographs in this Report from the 2024 AIB Press Photographer of the Year Awards, and to the individual photographers, who are named.

Cover page: SIBLING SOUNDS Marc O'Sullivan

Sister and brother, Faustina on viola and Faith on double bass, from the Pesto Players, pictured practicing for the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras Annual Festival of Youth Orchestras at the National Concert Hall.

Contents

Introduction	2
Foreword by Chairperson	3
Complaints	5
Press Ombudsperson's Report	9
Case Manager's Report	12
The Press Council of Ireland	14
Press Council Board of Directors	15
Financial Report	16
Member Publications	19
Code of Practice	27

Introduction

PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

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

OFFICE OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Press Ombudsman receives complaints from members of the public and seeks to resolve them through the Office's conciliation service to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. Where conciliation is not possible, the Press Ombudsperson will make a decision on the complaint based on the Code of Practice. The Press Ombudsperson's decision-making is independent of the Press Council.

Foreword by Chairperson

Avigorous and independent press is fundamental to a decent and democratic society. The Press Council supports its member publications – the vast majority of Irish titles, both print and online – in their vital role. We promote fairness, objectivity and accuracy, as defined in our Code of Practice. At the core of this work is ensuring that on the rare occasions when it is felt that the Principles set out in the Code may have been breached, the machinery of the Press Council continues to offer a speedy, free and straightforward way of trying to resolve complaints and, where necessary, deciding on them.

This work is led by the Press Ombudsman, who is appointed by the Press Council but is entirely independent in their decision-making. 2023 was Susan McKay's first full year in the role and she demonstrated the rigour, determination and empathy which have characterised her highly distinguished career as a journalist and author. Bernie Grogan, our Case Manager, plays an indispensable part, both in resolving disputes before they come to the Press Ombudsman and in providing advice and guidance to me and the Board, for which I am personally grateful. Our Administrator, Jennifer Warren, is highly efficient in ensuring that we function effectively and get the most from our very limited resources.

The media landscape continues to change at warp speed. The traditional press is under continuing pressure, to which it is responding in creative ways consistent with its enduring values. The Press Council remains apart from Coimisiún na Meán, but the general health of the media ecosystem is of great importance to us. We watched with concern the 2023 crisis in RTE, which we hope is back on an even keel despite continuing challenges. Coimisiún na Meán has the enormous responsibility of regulating social media platforms, which can, when misused, be a potent source of misinformation and indeed disinformation. We wish it all the very best in its endeavours.

Since the Covid pandemic we have seen an increase in complaints related to politically and socially prominent issues, such as vaccination, the rights of transgender



Rory Montgomery, Chairperson

people, and immigration. The threat posed by bias and misinformation were demonstrated by the violent reaction to the appalling attack on young children and their teacher in Dublin in November. The Press Council and Press Ombudsman will continue to address complaints objectively and on the basis of our Code of Practice, while being conscious of the wider context in which we operate.

I thank my twelve fellow-members of the Press Council Board, who during 2023 continued to fulfil their duties in deciding on the small number of appeals against decisions by the Press Ombudsman, and in ensuring the overall good governance of the organisation, with commitment and diligence. All remained in place for the full year.

Sadly, September saw the untimely death of Bride Rosney, a member of our Appointments Committee, whose wisdom and common sense contributed greatly to that Committee's work.

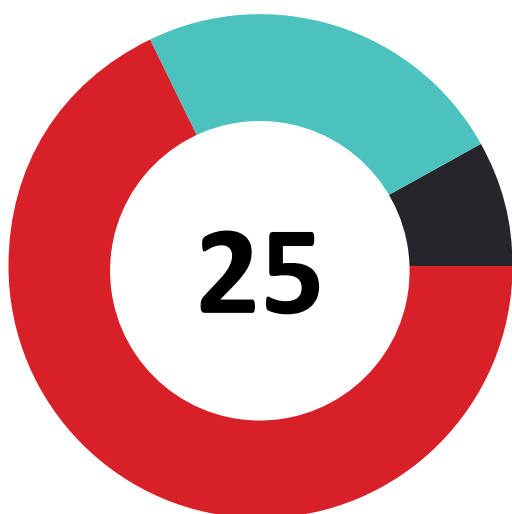


A meeting of the Board of the Press Council.

Complaints

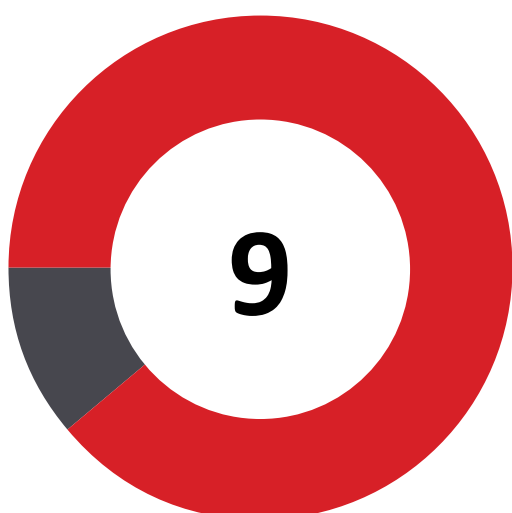
Decided by Press Ombudsperson (see page 6 for breakdown)	25	
Complaint resolved by the editor to the satisfaction of the complainant	10	
Live at end 2023	9	
Unauthorised third party	6	These were complainants who were not personally affected by an article, or who complained about an article written about another person, but without that person's permission
User Generated Content/social media	2	
Other regulatory authority	16	These were mainly for Coimisiún na Meán or the Advertising Standards Authority.
Out of time	21	These were complaints that were received outside the three-month deadline for making a complaint.
Publication not member of Press Council	23	
Closed/Withdrawn	4	
Miscellaneous	28	
Complaint not pursued beyond preliminary enquiry by complainant	161	Some of these complaints were multiple complaints about the same article. Others were complaints where the complainant decided not to pursue the matter beyond a preliminary enquiry. Some of these complaints may subsequently have been satisfactorily resolved following the submission of the complaint directly to the editor of the publication concerned.
TOTAL	305	

Complaints decided by the Press Ombudsperson



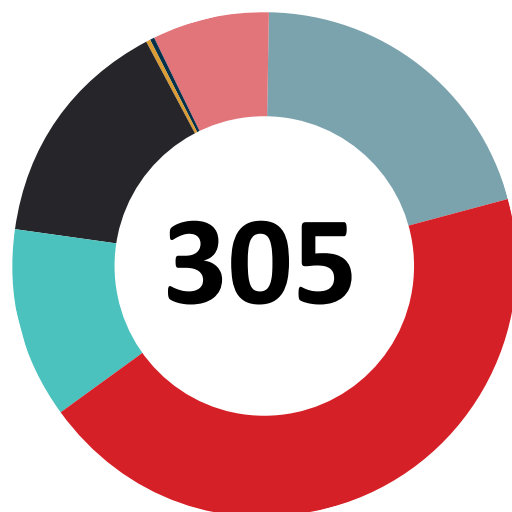
Not upheld	17
Upheld (1 overturned on appeal)	6
Sufficient remedial action offered by the publication to resolve the complaint	2

Appeals considered by the Press Council



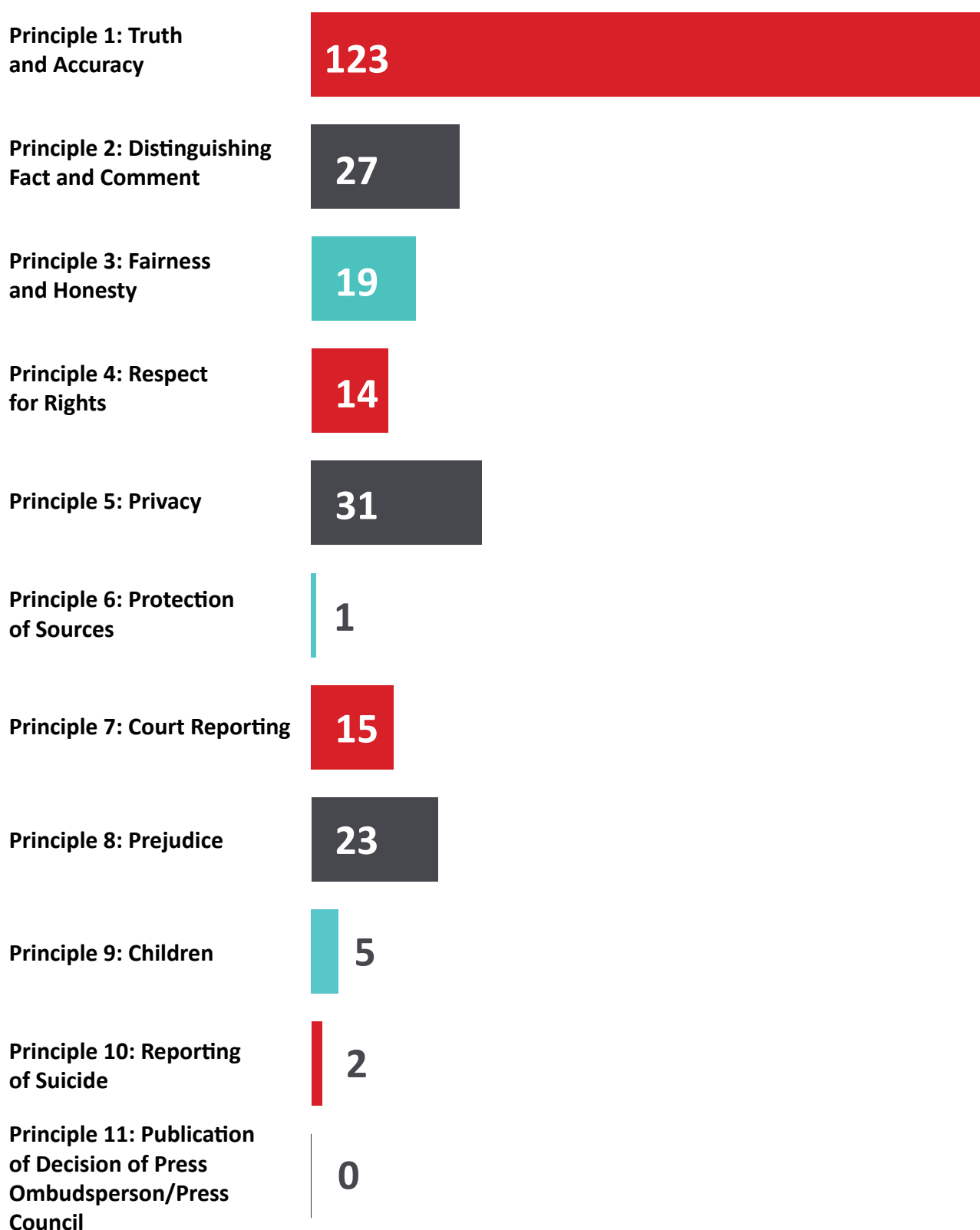
Rejected	8
Upheld	1

Publication leading to complaint



National newspaper (print and online)	135
Online-only news publication	37
Local newspaper (print and online)	46
Student publication	1
Magazine	1
Publication not member of Press Council	23
Not indicated by complainant	62

Principles of the Code of Practice cited by complainants



Complainants often cite a breach of more than one Principle of the Code of Practice in their complaints. The full text of the Code of Practice is published on pages 27 and 28.



RELIEVED *Alan Betson*

On a back lane, a child is carried to safety from her school, Scoil Mhuire, as Gardaí and emergency services attend Parnell Square in Dublin in the aftermath of a knife attack on school children and their carer.

Press Ombudsperson's Report

The freedom of the press is vital to democracy. My role is to use the Press Council's Code of Practice to uphold this freedom, while also ensuring that the public is able to hold the press to account, through use of our complaints process. I am proud to play a part in the struggle to keep human rights, the public interest, and values of decency and respect at the heart of the journalism published and read in this country.

There are those who denigrate what they call "mainstream media". As Press Ombudsperson I am happy to work within the mainstream and its many tributaries. Most of the larger publications eligible to join the Press Council have done so, and it continues to welcome new members, particularly among smaller publications.

In 2023 I participated in the increasingly urgent work of providing advice to the Government through the National Counter Disinformation Strategy Working Group. I attended several international conferences, including those of the Association of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE) and the Organisation of News Ombuds and Standards Editors (ONO). I addressed among others the National Union of Journalists' Freelance Forum, a Media in Conflict and Peace conference and a Shared Island event. With the Case Manager, I conducted workshops with staff and editors in several national newspaper newsrooms.

Bride Rosney served for many years on the Appointments Committee of the Press Council, and made an immense contribution to Irish public life. Sadly, she died in September 2023. I represented the Press Council of Ireland and Office of the Press Ombudsman at the humanist celebration of her life.

The largest number of complaints my Office received in 2023 concerned claims of breaches of Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) of the Code of Practice. Among the other Principles, most complaints from readers were about those dealing with Privacy, Distinguishing Fact and Comment,



Susan McKay, Press Ombudsperson

and Prejudice. I issued one advisory notice to Press Council member publications. This concerned asking our member publications to ensure that their reporters and photographers should be sensitive to the well-being of young children returning to their school in Dublin after a tragic incident and public disorder that followed it.

I made 25 decisions on complaints, while ten were resolved through conciliation conducted by the Case Manager, and nine were live at the end of the year. I upheld six complaints, one of which was overturned on appeal by the Press Council.

A 2023 Dublin City University (DCU) report* found that 55% of journalists surveyed said they sometimes or often experienced demeaning or hateful speech. This was often amplified on social media platforms, with 13% of

journalists experiencing online abuse on a daily or weekly basis. The absence of regulation of these platforms threatens journalism, journalists and the public.

Press Council member publications supported by the Press Ombudsperson continued to warn the Government of the continuing risks to the press industry due to further delays in the long-awaited reforms to defamation law.

I introduced the new Press Council Fellowship for a journalist at an early stage in their career. The inaugural Fellowship was won by Alice Chambers, then working for TheJournal.ie, and enabled her to attend the 2023 Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Sweden.

Concerned that many complaints are unable to progress due to a lack of understanding of the process, I laid the groundwork for the appointment of a part-time contractor to develop communications and outreach for my Office. I want the public, including both individuals and representative groups, to know about and use the Press Ombudsman's Office effectively, and I will continue to work with Press Council member publications striving to uphold the highest professional and ethical standards envisaged in the Code of Practice.

*Irish Journalists at Work: Values, Roles and Influences, by Professor Kevin Rafter and Dr Dawn Wheatley, DCU, 2023.



Winner of the Press Council of Ireland's Inaugural Annual Fellowship to the 2023 Global Investigative Journalism Conference Alice Chambers (middle), Susan McKay, Press Ombudsperson (left) and Susan Daly, Managing Editor of TheJournal.ie (right).



MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD *Dara Mac Donaill*

Members of the disabled community and supporters protest to highlight the important role of Personal Assistance Services to enable disabled people to live independently.

Case Manager's Report



Bernie Grogan, Case Manager

Complaints Process

As in previous years, in 2023 the majority of complainants who quoted the Code of Practice in their complaints cited Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) of the Code (50%). After that, the next most cited Principles were Principle 5 (Privacy) at 12%, Principle 2 (Distinguishing Fact and Comment) at 10%, Principle 8 (Prejudice) at 9% and Principle 3 (Fairness and Honesty) at 7%. Many complainants cited more than one Principle of the Code in their complaints.

One-third of all complaints fully processed in 2023 were resolved through conciliation. Our conciliation process is an important part of the service we provide, and we work closely with complainants and editors in the interests of arriving at an outcome that will be satisfactory to both.

Complaints are generally resolved through the conciliation process within a period of two to three weeks after their receipt.

Where conciliation does not result in a satisfactory outcome, the complaint is referred to the Press Ombudsman for a formal decision on whether or not the article, or journalistic behaviour, breached the Code.

Resolution of Complaints

How complaints were resolved through conciliation during the year depended on the nature and significance of the complaint, and whether or not the article was published in print, online, or both.

Complaints under Principle 1 of the Code can be resolved swiftly when the complaint is supported by evidence that an article was significantly inaccurate, misleading or distorted. In 2023 most complaints about a breach of Principle 1 of the Code were resolved by the amendment of online material or the publication of a correction or clarification. In one case, a publication amended an online article, added an explanatory note at the end, published a correction in its print edition and published a letter from the complainant.

Complaints about other Principles of the Code were resolved in a number of different ways, including by the annotation of online material, the publication of an apology, the publication of a right of reply, a meeting with the editor, and an undertaking by the editor on future coverage of the subject matter of the complaint.

During the year we also offered advice and assistance to individuals and organisations who, while not wishing to make a formal complaint, sought guidance on how to proceed with an issue relating to the press. This sometimes related to circumstances where an individual found themselves suddenly to be the focus of intense media interest, often at times of great tragedy or distress, and sought advice on how to deal with the matter.

Connecting and Engaging

In 2023 we continued our engagement with voluntary organisations and advocacy groups around the country, running several seminars with advocacy teams, information officers and service users. This engagement is designed to assist individuals who wish to submit a complaint to the Office, as well as organisations that might wish to submit a complaint on behalf of those they represent.

We also held a number of workshops with editors and journalists to discuss the type of complaints received during the year. These workshops were a very useful means of exploring with editors and their journalists issues that arose during the year under the Code of Practice, and discussing how those issues might best be addressed.



GONE TO POT *Lorraine Teevan*

A tree grows out of an unusual spot on the chimney of a shop in Cavan Town.

The Press Council of Ireland

The Board of the Press Council of Ireland has thirteen members. Seven directors (including the chairperson) are public interest directors. The remaining six directors are drawn from the press industry.

At 31 December 2023 the Directors of the Press Council were:

Independent Directors:

- Mr Rory Montgomery (Chairperson)
- Professor Maeve Conrick (Deputy Chairperson) (retired 2024)
- Mr James Doorley
- Mr Alan Dukes
- Ms Edith Geraghty
- Dr Tim Hinchey
- Ms Sunniva McDonagh

Directors Drawn from the Press Industry:

- Ms Siobhán Cronin
- Ms Siobhán Holliman
- Ms Catherine Lee (retired 2024)
- Ms Samantha McCaughren
- Mr Conor O'Donnell
- Mr Roddy O'Sullivan

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Press Council held its Annual General Meeting on 4 October 2023. The meeting approved the company accounts.

CODE COMMITTEE

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

At 31 December 2023 the members of the Code Committee were:

- Mr Brendan Keenan (Chairperson)
- Mr Cormac Bourke (Mediahuis)
- Ms Susan Daly (TheJournal.ie)
- Mr Chris Dooley (The Irish Times)

- Mr Seamus Dooley (National Union of Journalists)
- Mr Tom Fitzpatrick (Irish Examiner)
- Dr Michael Foley (National Union of Journalists)
- Mr Neil Leslie (Irish Daily Star)
- Ms Linda O'Reilly (The Anglo Celt)
- Ms Susan McKay (Press Ombudsperson)

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The independent public interest directors of the Press Council are appointed by an independent Appointments Committee following a process of public advertisement, short-listing and interview.

The Committee also receives nominations from the press industry for the six industry seats on the Council.

At 31 December 2023 the members of the Appointments Committee were:

- Mr Dermot McCarthy
- Professor Frances Ruane
- Mr Rory Montgomery (Chairperson of the Press Council)

(Bride Rosney, the fourth member of the Appointments Committee, died in September 2023.)

APPEALS

Either party may appeal a substantive decision of the Press Ombudsperson to the Press Council of Ireland on one or both of the following grounds:

1. That the procedures followed in making the decision were not in accordance with the published procedures for considering complaints.
2. That there was an error in the Press Ombudsperson's application of the Principles of the Code of Practice.

In 2023 the Press Council considered nine appeals. Eight of the appeals were rejected and one was upheld.

All decisions of the Press Council are published on our website at www.presscouncil.ie

Press Council Board of Directors



1 Mr Rory Montgomery, Chairperson

2 Mr James Doorley, Deputy Chairperson 3 Ms Noeline Blackwell*

4 Ms Siobhán Cronin 5 Mr Alan Dukes 6 Ms Edith Geraghty 7 Dr Tim Hinchey

8 Ms Siobhán Holliman 9 Mr Duan Stokes* 10 Ms Samantha McCaughren

11 Ms Sunniva McDonagh 12 Mr Conor O'Donnell 13 Mr Roddy O'Sullivan

(*Appointed in 2024)

Financial Report

The finances of the Press Council of Ireland are provided for, under the terms of its Constitution, by the Administrative Committee of the Press Council.

The Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman are fully funded by member publications, and member publications are 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.

The Administrative Committee includes representatives of Mediahuis, NewsBrands Ireland, Local Ireland, Magazines Ireland, online-only news publications and the National Union of Journalists. It determines its own membership, with the exception of the Chairperson, who is appointed by the Press Council.

At 31 December 2023 the members of the Administrative Committee were:

- Professor Maeve Conrick (Chairperson)
- Mr Adrian Acosta
- Mr DJ Corbett
- Mr Seamus Dooley
- Mr Bob Hughes
- Mr Colin Kerr
- Ms Ann Marie Lenihan
- Mr David McDonagh
- Mr Colm O'Reilly
- Mr Alan Steenson
- Mr Cliff Taylor

The costs of the Press Council of Ireland and the Office of the Press Ombudsman for 2023, together with comparative figures for the previous year, were as follows:

	2023	2022
Directors' fees	€55,000	€55,000
Staff salaries	€194,039	€175,216
Employer PRSI contributions for staff	€17,572	€15,703
Retirement benefits- defined contribution scheme	€3,938	€3,813
Staff Training	€1,145	
Hotels, travel and subsistence	€3,126	€4,795
Printing and stationery	€993	€1,100
Telephone	€2,957	€2,304
Computer costs	€9,642	€8,222
Memberships	€1,550	€801
Legal and professional	€3,250	€300
Auditors' remuneration	€3,020	€3,020
Bank charges	€391	€408
Sundry expenses	€6,078	€3,124
Rent, rates and services	€32,935	€33,752
Cleaning	€856	€449
Insurances	€5,215	€4,662
Repairs and maintenance	-	€300
Conference attendance costs	€2,300	-
Management services	€16,000	€16,000
Annual Report and launch	€2,229	€1,354
Meeting room facilities	€1,958	€4,538
Depreciation	€2,187	€2,187
Bursary	€1,667	€2,867
Total expenditure	€368,048	€339,915



MICHELLE O'NEILL, PRO-TRANS GATHERING, DUBLIN *Nick Bradshaw*

Michelle O'Neill, Vice President of Sinn Féin and MLA for the Mid Ulster Constituency since 2007.

Member Publications

NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Irish Daily Mail	DMG Media (Ireland), Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20-38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.	01 256 0800	www.mailonline.ie
Irish Daily Mirror	Independent House, 27 – 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 868 8600	www.irishmirror.ie
Irish Daily Star	Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 868 8600	www.thestar.ie
Irish Examiner	Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.	021 427 2722	www.irishexaminer.com
Irish Farmers Journal	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.	01 419 9599	www.farmersjournal.ie
Irish Independent	Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 705 5333	www.independent.ie
Irish Mail on Sunday	DMG Media (Ireland), Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20-38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.	01 256 0800	www.mailonline.ie
Irish Sunday Mirror	Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 868 8600	www.irishmirror.ie
Sunday Independent	Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 705 5333	www.independent.ie
Sunday World	5th Floor, Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 884 8973	www.sundayworld.com
The Business Post	Post Publications Ltd, 2nd Floor, Block B, The Merrion Centre, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.	01 602 6000	www.businesspost.ie
The Herald	Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 705 5333	www.independent.ie
The Irish Sun	Macken House, 39-40 Mayor Street Upper, Dublin 1.	01 479 2400	www.thesun.ie
The Irish Sun on Sunday	Macken House, 39-40 Mayor Street Upper, Dublin 1.	01 479 2400	www.thesun.ie
The Irish Times	The Irish Times Building, PO Box 74, 24- 28 Tara Street, Dublin 2.	01 675 8000	www.irishtimes.com
The Sunday Times	Macken House, 39-40 Mayor Street Upper, Dublin 1.	01 479 2400	www.sundaytimes.ie

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Athlone Advertiser	Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co Mayo.	094 903 5010	www.advertiser.ie/athlone
Bray People	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Carlow Nationalist	Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.	059 917 0100	www.carlow-nationalist.ie
Clare Champion	Barrack Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.	065 682 8105	www.clarechampion.ie
Clonmel Nationalist	Queen Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.	052 617 2500	www.tipperarylive.ie
Connacht Tribune	15 Market Street, Galway.	091 536 222	www.connachttribune.ie
Connaught Telegraph	No. 1 Main Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.	094 902 1711	www.con-telegraph.ie
Cork Independent	North Point House, North Point Business Park, Blackpool, Cork.	021-428 8567	www.corkindependent.com
County Derry Post	19 Carlisle Road, Derry BT48 6JJ.	00 44 28 7774 3970	www.derrynow.com
Derry News	19 Carlisle Road, Derry BT48 6JJ.	00 44 28 7129 6600	www.derrynow.com
Donegal Democrat	Railway House, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	074 912 8000	www.donegallive.ie
Donegal News	St. Anne's Court, High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	074 912 1014	www.donegalnews.com
Donegal People's Press	Larkin House, Oldtown Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	074 974 0160	www.donegallive.ie
Donegal Post	Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal.	074 974 0160	www.donegaldaily.com
Drogheda Independent	9 Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.	041 983 8658	www.independent.ie
Drogheda Leader	13 West Street, Drogheda, Co Louth A92 NCA4.	041-98 36100	www.droghedaleader.com
Dublin Gazette	Suite 15, The Cube, Sandyford, Dublin 18.	01 601 0240	www.dublingazette.com
Dublin Inquirer	65 Crumlin Road, Dublin 12.	087 392 4796	www.dublininquirer.com
Dundalk Democrat	7 Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	042 933 4058	www.dundalkdemocrat.ie
Dundalk Leader	9A Crowe Street, Townparks, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	042 932 0888	www.dundalkleader.com
Enniscorthy Guardian	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Galway Advertiser	41 Eyre Square, Galway.	091 530 900	www.advertiser.ie/galway
Gorey Guardian	Market Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford.	053 942 1091	www.independent.ie
Inish Times	33 Upper Main Street, Ardaraven, Buncrana, Co. Donegal.	074 934 1055	www.donegallive.ie
Kerrys Eye	22 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.	066 714 9200	www.kerryseye.com
Kildare Nationalist	Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.	045 432 147	www.kildare-nationalist.ie

Kildare Post	Unit WD5, Toughers Industrial Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.	045 408200	www.KildareNow.com
Kilkenny People	34 High Street, Kilkenny.	056 772 1015	www.kilkennypeople.ie
Laois Nationalist	Coliseum Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	057 867 0216	www.laois-nationalist.ie
Leinster Express	107 Main Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	057 862 1666	www.leinsterexpress.ie
Leinster Leader	Unit WD5, Toughers Industrial Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.	045 897 302	www.leinsterleader.ie
Leitrim Observer	3 Hartley Business Park, Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.	071 962 0025	www.leitrimobserver.ie
Limerick Leader	29 Glentworth Street, Limerick.	061 214 500	www.limerickleader.ie
Limerick Post	97 Henry Street, Limerick V94 V4Y2.	061 413322	www.limerickpost.ie
Longford Leader	Leader House, Dublin Road, Longford.	043 334 5241	www.longfordleader.ie
Mayo Advertiser	Chapel Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.	094 903 5010	www.advertiser.ie/mayo
Mayo News	The Fairgreen, Westport, Co. Mayo.	098 253 11	www.mayonews.ie
Meath Chronicle	Market Square, Navan, Co. Meath.	046 907 9600	www.meathchronicle.ie
Midland Tribune	Main Street, Birr, Co. Offaly.	057 912 0003	www.offalylive.ie
Munster Express	37 The Quay, Waterford.	051 872 141	www.munster-express.ie
Nenagh Guardian	13 Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.	067 312 14	www.nenaghguardian.ie
New Ross Standard	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Northern Standard	The Diamond, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.	047 821 88	www.northernstandard.ie
Northside and Southside People	Unit 3 Robinhood Industrial Estate, Dublin 22 HE17	01 862 1611	www.dublinpeople.com
Roscommon Herald	Bridge Street, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.	071 966 2004	www.roscommonherald.ie
Sligo Champion	Connacht House, Markievicz Road, Sligo.	071 916 9222	www.sligochampion.ie
The Anglo Celt	Kilmore Business Park, Dublin Road, Cavan.	049 433 1100	www.anglocelt.ie
The Argus	Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	042 933 4632	www.independent.ie
The Avondhu	Avondhu Press, 18 Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.	025 24451	www.avondhupress.ie
The Clare Echo	36c Abbey Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.	065 671 9021	www.clareecho.ie
The Corkman	The Spa, Mallow, Co. Cork.	022 423 94	www.independent.ie
The Echo	Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.	021 427 2722	www.echolive.ie
The Kerryman	Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.	066 714 5560	www.independent.ie
The Premier South Tipperary News	153 Dudley's Mill, Coileville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.	086 2402753	www.thepremiernewspaper.com
The Southern Star	Ilen Street, Skibbereen, Cork.	028 212 00	www.southernstar.ie

Tipperary Star	Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.	0504 291 00	www.tipperarylive.ie
Tuam Herald	Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.	093 241 83	www.tuamherald.ie
Tullamore Tribune	William Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.	057 932 1152	www.offalylive.ie
Waterford News & Star	Gladstone House, Gladstone Street, Waterford.	051 874 951	www.waterford-news.com
Western People	Tone Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo.	096 60 999	www.westernpeople.ie
Westmeath Examiner	Blackhall Place, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.	044 934 6700	www.westmeathexaminer.ie
Westmeath Independent	11 Sean Costello Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.	090 643 4300	www.westmeathindependent.ie
Wexford People	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Wicklow People	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie

MAGAZINES

Accountancy Ireland	Chartered Accountants House, 47- 49 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.	01 637 7392	www.accountancyireland.ie
Business Plus	Top Floor, Two Haddington Building, 20-38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.	01 256 0800	www.businessplus.ie
GCN	The Skylab, 1-2 Exchange Street Upper, Dublin 8.	01 675 5025	www.gcn.ie
Hot Press	100 Capel Street, Dublin 1.	01 241 1500	www.hotpress.com
Ireland's Own	Channing House, Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0140	www.irelandsown.ie
Irish Country Magazine	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.	01 419 9500	www.irishcountrymagazine.ie
Irish Medical Times	Merchants' Hall, 25 Merchants' Quay, Dublin 8.	01 817 6347	www.imt.ie
Irish Tatler Magazine	Post Publications Ltd, 2nd Floor, Block B, The Merrion Centre, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.	01 602 6000	www.irishtatler.com
Law Society Gazette	Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.	01 672 4828	www.lawsocietygazette.ie
RSVPLive	Independent House, 27-32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 829 9685	www.rsvplive.ie
RTÉ Guide	RTÉ Publishing, RTE, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.	01 208 2920	www.rteguide.ie
Síocháin	Garda Síochána Retired Members Association, 5 Harrington Street, Dublin 8.	01 478 1525	www.gardaretired.com
Stubbs Gazette	The Priory, Stillorgan Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.	01 672 5939	www.stubbsgazette.ie
The Gloss	Gloss Publications Ltd., The Courtyard, 40 Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.	01 275 5130	www.thegloss.ie
The Irish Field	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.	01 405 1100	www.irishfield.ie
The Irish Journalist	NUJ, 2nd Floor, Spencer House, Spencer Row, Off Store Street, Dublin 1.	01 817 0340	www.nuj.org.uk
Village	Ormond Quay Publishing, 6 Ormond Quay Upper, Dublin 7.	01 873 5824	www.villagemagazine.ie

ONLINE ONLY PUBLICATIONS

BreakingNews.ie	24-28 Tara Street, Dublin 2.	01 675 8000	www.breakingnews.ie
Buzz.ie	1st Floor, Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 499 3440	www.buzz.ie
CarlowLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.carlowlive.ie
ClareLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01-678 0000	www.clarelive.ie
CorkBeo.ie	Morrison House, Morrison Quay, Cork.	021 494 970	www.corkbeo.ie
DerryNow.com	19 Carlisle Road, Derry BT48 6JJ.	00 44 28 7129 6600	www.derrynow.com
DonegalLive.ie	Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal.	074 912 8000	www.donegallive.ie
DublinLive.ie	2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.	01 868 8600	www.dublinlive.ie
EchoLive.ie	Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.	021 427 2722	www.echolive.ie
ÉireBheo.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.eirebheo.ie
EVOKE.ie	DMG Media (Ireland), Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20-38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.	01 256 0800	www.evoke.ie
Extra.ie	DMG Media (Ireland), Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20-38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.	01 256 0800	www.extra.ie
GalwayBeo.ie	Independent House, 27- 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 868 8600	www.galwaybeo.ie
Gript.ie	Gript Media, 6 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1	news@gript.ie	www.gript.ie
InishLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.inishlive.ie
IrelandLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.irelandlive.ie
KildareLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.kildarelive.ie
KildareNow.com	Unit WD5, Toughers Industrial Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.	045 408200	www.kildarenow.com
KilkennyLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.kilkennylive.ie
LaoisLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.laoislive.ie
LeitrimLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.leitrimlive.ie
LetterkennyLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.letterkennylive.ie

LimerickLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.limericklive.ie
LongfordLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.longfordlive.ie
LouthLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.louthlive.ie
MayoLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.mayolive.ie
NenaghLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.nenaghlive.ie
OffalyExpress.ie	107 Lower Main Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	057 862 1666	www.offalyexpress.ie
OffalyLive.ie	Main Street, Birr, Co. Offaly.	057 912 0003	www.offalylive.ie
TheDitch.com	Ditch Media Ltd, 71 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.	info@ontheditch.com	www.ontheditch.com
Rollercoaster.ie	DMG Media (Ireland), Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20-38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.	01 256 0800	www.rollercoaster.ie
TheJournal.ie	Journal Media Ltd, 3rd Floor, Latin Hall, Golden Lane, Dublin 8.	hello@thejournal.ie	www.thejournal.ie
The42.ie	Journal Media Ltd, 3rd Floor, Latin Hall, Golden Lane, Dublin 8.	hello@thejournal.ie	www.the42.ie
TipperaryLive.ie	Tipperary Star, Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.	0504 291 00	www.tipperarylive.ie
WaterfordLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.waterfordlive.ie

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Icarus	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.icarusmagazine.com
JOLT- Journal of Literary Translation	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Miscellany	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Motley	UCC Students' Union, 54 College Road, Cork.	021 490 3218	www.motley.ie
Pirhana!	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
SIN	C/o Students' Union, Áras na Mac Léinn, NUI Galway.	091 493 262	www.sin.ie
University Observer	UCD Students' Union, UCD Sports & Student Centre, Belfield, Dublin 4.	01 716 3835	www.universityobserver.ie
The University Times	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.universitytimes.ie
TN2	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Trinity Film Review	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Trinity News	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitynews.ie
UCC Express	UCC Students' Union, 54 College Road, Cork.	021 490 3218	www.uccexpress.ie

Code of Practice*

Preamble

The freedom to publish is vital to the right of the people to be informed. This freedom includes the right of the press 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 it is the duty of Press Council print and online media members (the press) 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 print and online news media legitimately interested in providing information about it.

Principle 1 – Truth and Accuracy

- 1.1 In reporting news and information, the press 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 The press is entitled to advocate strongly its own views on topics.
- 2.2 Comment, conjecture, rumour and unconfirmed reports shall not be reported as if they are fact.
- 2.3 Readers are entitled to expect that the content of the press 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 – Fair Procedures and Honesty

- 3.1 The press shall strive at all times for fair procedures and honesty in the procuring and publishing of news and information.
- 3.2 The press 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. The press 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.

5.4 Public persons are entitled to privacy. However, where people hold public office, deal with public affairs, follow a public career, or have sought or obtained publicity for their activities, publication of relevant details of their private life and circumstances may be justifiable where the information revealed relates to the validity of their conduct, the credibility of their public statements, the value of their 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

7.1 Nothing in this Code shall limit or prohibit the fair and accurate reporting of legal proceedings.

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

* The Code of Practice was amended by the Code Committee of the Press Council in September 2024. This is the amended Code.

Principle 8 – Prejudice

The press 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 The press shall take particular care in seeking and presenting information or comment about a child under the age of 18.

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 – Reporting of Suicide

Editors shall exercise extreme caution in reporting substantial details of the means of suicide, and will do so only if particular circumstances justify it.

Principle 11 - Publication of the Decision of the Press Ombudsman / Press Council

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

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



32 Westland Square, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, DO2 R9T2

T: 01 6489130 | LoCall: 1800 208 080 | Email: administrator@pressombudsman.ie

www.presscouncil.ie | www.pressombudsman.ie