

PRESS COUNCIL  
OF IRELAND



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESS  
OMBUDSMAN



ANNUAL REPORT

2016

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

#### **DOWN FOR THE NIGHT**

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*by Marc O'Sullivan / Irish Examiner*

*Deer settle down for the evening in the Phoenix Park, Dublin*

*All photographs used in this Report were taken by members of the Press Photographers Association of Ireland and featured in their 2017 Awards. We are grateful for permission to reproduce these images in our Annual Report.*

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# INTRODUCTION

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## **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 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 Office of the Press Ombudsman 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.





## ISLAND VOTING

*by Niall Carson / Press Association*

*Presiding Officer Carmel McBride and  
Sergeant Paul McGee carry a ballot box after  
voting concluded on the island of Inishbofin*

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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The press in Ireland continue to provide a generally reliable news service and to adhere to the Code of Practice of the Press Council of Ireland. The Code was written by journalists and it is the expression of best professional practice to which member publications have committed themselves. The Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman are independent of the press and of Government. The Office of the Press Ombudsman deals with complaints about breaches of the Code of Practice in a fast, free and fair way. The Press Council considers complaints referred to it directly by the Press Ombudsman, and to appeals when complainants or publishers exercise their rights to appeal decisions of the Press Ombudsman.

The Press Council is dedicated to defending the public good of a free press and developing and strengthening best professional practice in journalism. It is generally accepted that limitations on a free press should be as little as possible whether by law or by the actions of governments, companies or individuals.

In Ireland today press freedom is subject to a number of challenges. In particular it is challenged by law, specifically the 2009 Defamation Act and its operation which has led to the courts making generous financial awards which are out of line with awards in comparable cases in other European countries. This has led to a situation where many complainants and their legal advisors ignore the machinery of the Office of the Press

Ombudsman and the Press Council in favour of the prospect of significant financial reward by using the court system. Legal actions or threats of such action by individuals and companies whose financial resources are manifestly greater than those of the press also pose a significant threat to press freedom.

The Press Council welcomes the fact that the Minister for Justice is currently reviewing the 2009 Defamation Act. The Council has made a detailed submission as to how the Act might be changed in the interests of press freedom. The submission is available on our website.

Young Irish people are currently the least likely in Europe, according to Eurostat, to read news online. Nevertheless, the printed press in Ireland,



## SPRING LAMBS

*by Fran Veale / Irish Daily Mail*

*Spring lambs on David and John Baker's Farm in Naul, Co Dublin*

as is the case worldwide, is facing increasing competition from the rapidly growing publishers of online news, and there is little doubt that the popularity of these publishers will continue to grow. In response to this, most of the Irish print press are making available online versions of their publications. The Press Council encourages the publishers of all online news services, whether linked or not to traditional news sources, to become members because there are many online news services which are not subject to any regulation - self, independent or governmental - and this remains a matter of concern, in Ireland as elsewhere.

Press freedom is an essential element of democracy and the Council is committed to developing the shared norms and practices that enable us to make the best use of this essential freedom.



**SEÁN DONLON**

*Chair*



# STATISTICS

**A TOTAL OF 261 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED IN 2016. THEY WERE PROCESSED AS FOLLOWS:**

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

**23** **COMPLAINT RESOLVED BY THE EDITOR TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMPLAINANT**

*Seven complaints were resolved through the Office's formal conciliation process and 16 complaints were resolved directly by the editor when the complainant, after submitting the initial complaint to the Office and receiving advice, then forwarded the complaint to the editor.*

**2** **COMPLAINT WITHDRAWN FOLLOWING EDITOR'S RESPONSE**

**14** **CONSIDERATION POSTPONED BECAUSE SUBJECT MATTER OF COMPLAINT WAS SUBJECT MATTER OF ONGOING COURT PROCEEDINGS**

**80** **COMPLAINT NOT PURSUED BEYOND PRELIMINARY STAGE 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.*

**5** **LIVE AT THE END OF 2016**

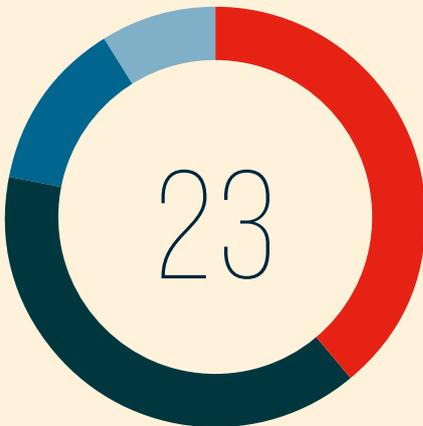
**114** **OUTSIDE REMIT**  
(SEE PAGE 8 FOR BREAKDOWN)



## PUBLICATIONS

*leading to complaint*

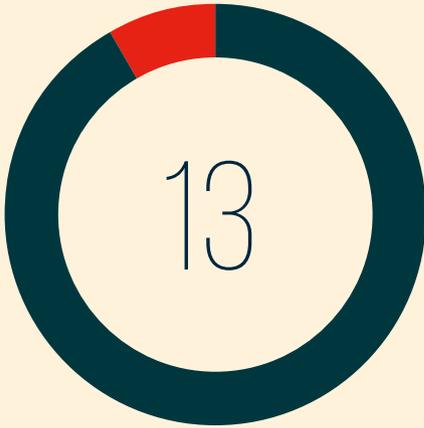
- 124** NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS (PRINT AND ONLINE)
- 30** LOCAL NEWSPAPERS (PRINT AND ONLINE)
- 15** ONLINE-ONLY NEWS PUBLICATIONS
- 1** MAGAZINES
- 20** NON-MEMBER PUBLICATIONS
- 71** NOT INDICATED BY COMPLAINANT



## COMPLAINTS

*decided by Press Ombudsman*

- 9** UPHELD
- 9** NOT UPHELD
- 3** SUFFICIENT REMEDIAL ACTION OFFERED OR TAKEN BY PUBLICATION
- 2** INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO MAKE A DECISION



## APPEALS

*considered by the Press Council*

**12** NOT ALLOWED

**1** ALLOWED



## COMPLAINTS

*outside the remit of the Office*

**36** MISCELLANEOUS

**29** UNAUTHORISED THIRD PARTY

*These were 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.*

**15** OUT OF TIME

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

**20** PUBLICATION NOT A MEMBER OF THE PRESS COUNCIL

*All national newspapers, most local newspapers, many magazines and some online-only news publication are members.*

**11** OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

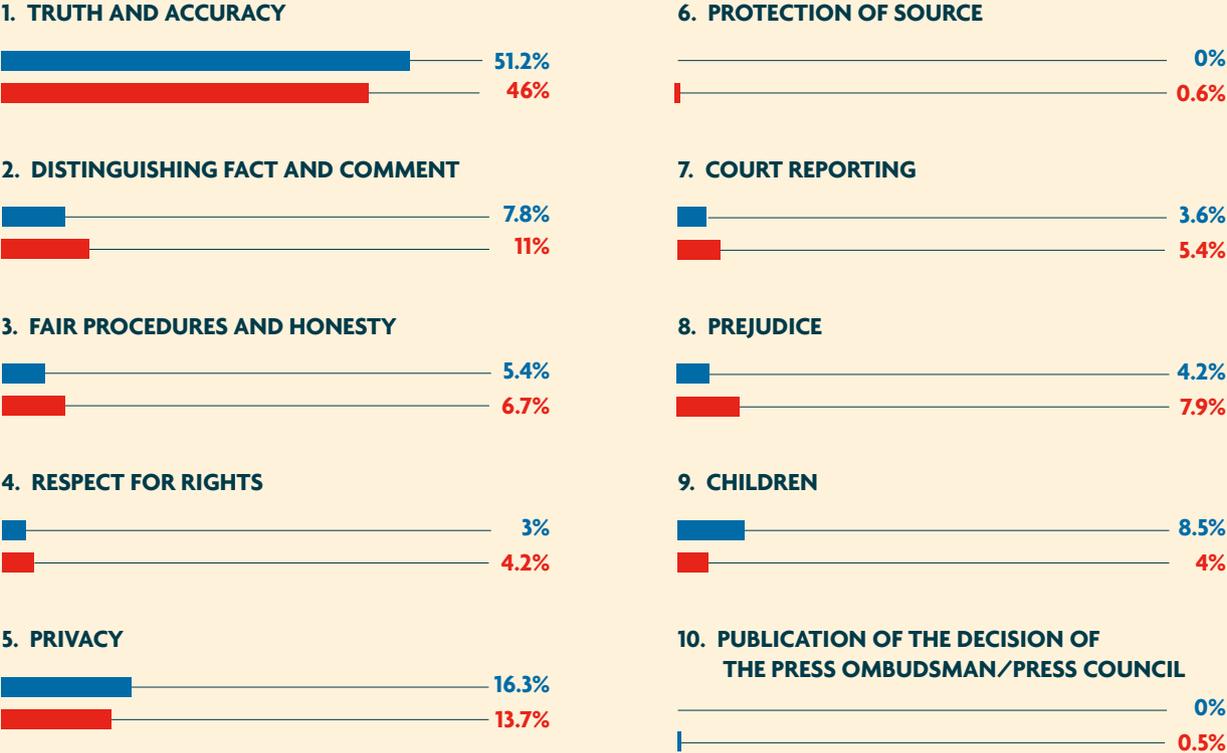
*These were for the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland or the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland.*

**3** USER GENERATED CONTENT (UGC)

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

# PRINCIPLES OF CODE OF PRACTICE CITED BY COMPLAINANTS

■ 2016  
■ 2015



Complainants often cite a breach of more than one Principle of the Code of Practice in their complaints.

The full text of the Code is published on pages 30 and 31.

# PRESS OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

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The Office of the Press Ombudsman considers complaints that claim that one or more of the ten Principles of the Code of Practice of the Press Council have been breached by a member publication in an article published in the previous three months. Complaints can also be considered in certain cases about the behaviour of journalists.

The Principle of the Code of Practice most cited in complaints made to my office is consistently Principle 1 which requires that the press shall strive at all times for truth and accuracy. If the press is to maintain its relevance in public life it is essential that those who look to the press for information, background, context and debate find accurate reports of events. The complaints handling process of my office can contribute to the public's confidence in the press. If something is published which is inaccurate members of the public, if they are personally affected by what has been published, can contact my office and ask that their complaints be investigated. Our initial response is to ask complainants to make direct contact with the editor of the publication. It is gratifying to observe that in many instances the complainant and editor are able to resolve matters without any further recourse to my office. Typically, if the editor accepts that something inaccurate has been published a clarification or correction will be published at the earliest opportunity. For many people this is the end of the matter.

Of course, there may be occasions when an editor does not accept that something inaccurate has been published or the complainant will not accept the proposed wording of a correction or clarification.

In these cases, the Case Officer attempts to conciliate a resolution to the complaint. If a conciliated resolution is not possible the complaint is forwarded to the Press Ombudsman for a decision. Of the nine complaints upheld in 2016 two were on the grounds that Principle 1 had been breached. In both complaints, the editors recognised that there had been some inaccuracies or ambiguities in what had been reported but the editors' proposed wording of a clarification or correction did not go far enough for the complainants, a view shared by me in both cases when making my formal decisions.

## Six complaints were upheld on the grounds of a breach of Principle 9 which obliges the press to take particular care in presenting information or comment about a child under the age of 16.

The Code cautions member publications to have regard for the vulnerability of children. This Principle has become more important in an age when social media has hugely exposed children to potential harm through the posting of photographs and private information on websites. Access to children's and their parents' social media postings does not give the press the right to publish images or information found there. Four of the upheld complaints of a breach of the Principle protecting children refer to the reporting of the same court case.

Other Principles which were found to have breached the Code were Principle 3 (Fair Procedures and Honesty) and Principle 5 (Privacy). Principle 3 was found to have been breached on one occasion. A woman posted highly personal information about herself to a Facebook group and a journalist, who was a member of the group, published the information in an online article without any attempt to inform her or to seek her permission. This was judged to be a breach of the requirement found in Principle 3 that fair procedures should be used in the procuring of information.

Principle 5 was breached on three occasions. This Principle recognises privacy as a human right, protected as a personal right in the Irish Constitution. This right is not unqualified. Principle 5 goes on to state that the right to privacy should not prevent publication of matters of public record or in the public interest. All editors before publishing anything judged to be private about an individual must, if the information is not on the public record, decide if the information being published is in the public interest. Justification in breaching a person's right to privacy must be based on the public good being better served by the publication of the private information. This is a high hurdle to cross and editors must think carefully before allowing private information to be published. There will always be some occasions when the publication of private information may be justified, but these will be the exception rather than the rule and do not include simply the public being interested in private matters.

## Advisory Notices

There are occasions when people find themselves in circumstances where they have suddenly and unexpectedly become the subject of intense media interest, often at times of great tragedy and distress. On occasions like this, if the particular circumstances of a case merits special attention, I 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 contact from the press. Such contact can also be used to facilitate appropriate and necessary coverage of particularly distressing events. Six advisory notices were issued in 2016.

The nine upheld complaints were as follows:

**Sean Conlon TD and the Donegal Democrat**

A breach of Principle 5 (Privacy)

A complaint was upheld that the Donegal Democrat breached Mr Conlon's privacy in the manner in which it identified Mr Conlon in the prominent publication of a photograph of him accompanying an article about a criminal charge against another person.

**Kevin Clarke and the Sunday Independent**

A breach of Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy)

A complaint was upheld that the Sunday Independent was inaccurate in a report on the profits made by pharmacies from the HSE's drugs costs reimbursement schemes.

**Councillor Toiréasa Ferris and The Irish Times**

A breach of Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy)

A complaint was upheld that The Irish Times was inaccurate in an account of proceedings of a debate by Kerry County Council on the merits of providing public funds for a memorial.

**Julie and Robert Duhya and the Irish Daily Mail**

A breach of Principle 9 (Children)

A complaint was upheld that the Irish Daily Mail breached Principle 9 in its publication of photographs of an infant accompanying a report of court proceedings.

**Julie and Robert Duhya and Evoke.ie**

A breach of Principle 9 (Children)

A complaint was upheld that Evoke.ie breached Principle 9 in its publication of photographs of an infant accompanying a report of court proceedings.

**Julie and Robert Duhya and the Irish Daily Star**

A breach of Principle 9 (Children)

A complaint was upheld that the Irish Daily Star breached Principle 9 in its publication of photographs of an infant accompanying a report of court proceedings.

### **Julie and Robert Duhy and the Sun.ie**

A breach of Principle 9 (Children)

A complaint was upheld that the Sun.ie breached Principle 9 in its publication of photographs of an infant accompanying a report of court proceedings.

### **A Woman and Independent.ie**

A breach of Principle 3 (Fair Procedures and Honesty), Principle 5 (Privacy) and Principle 9 (Children)

A complaint was upheld that Independent.ie breached Principles 3 and 5 in its publication of an article based on sensitive personal information obtained via a Facebook group and in the use of a wedding photograph accompanying the article. It was also found that Principle 9 had been breached by the publication of information about the complainant's child.

### **Katrina Whelan and the Sunday World**

A breach of Principle 5 (Privacy) and Principle 9 (Children)

A complaint was upheld that the Sunday World in a report on criminal activity identified a house where a woman and her children lived. This was judged to be a breach of her and her family's privacy. It was also judged to be a breach of the requirement to take particular care in presenting information about a child.



**PETER FEENEY**

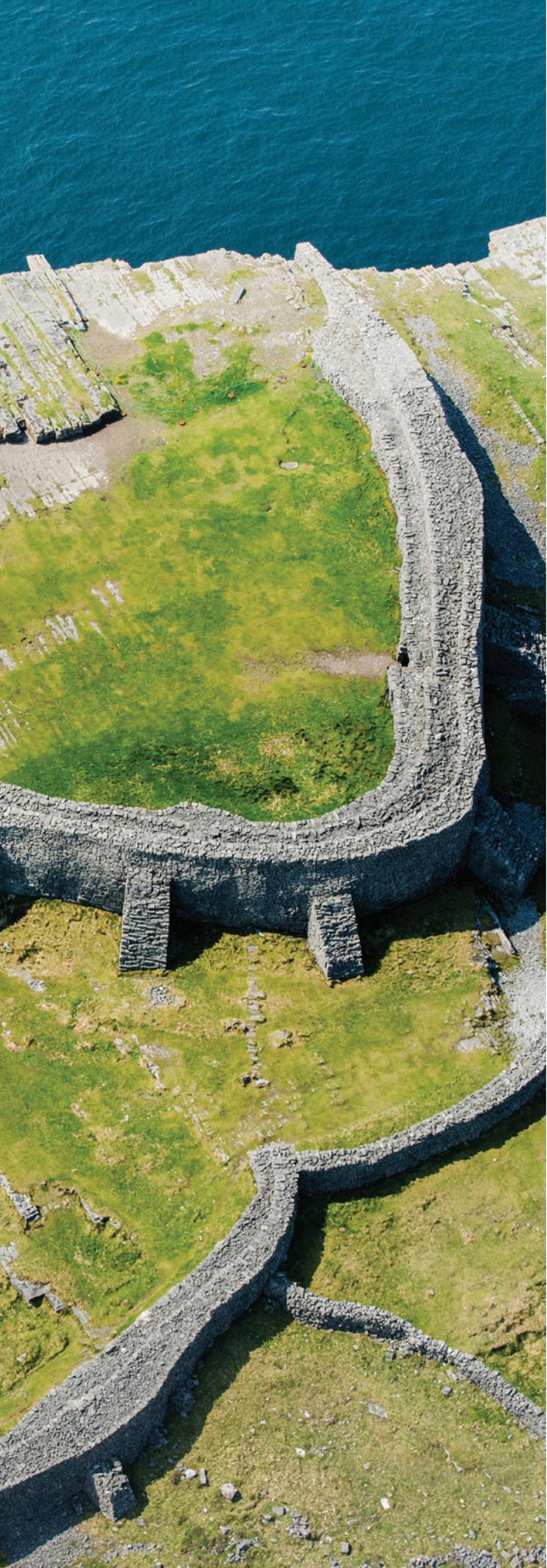
*Press Ombudsman*

## ARAN

*by Brenda Fitzsimons / The Irish Times*

*Dun Aengus, the prehistoric fort on the Aran Islands, has emergency support work done aided by the Irish Air Corps as it supplies materials for remedial work.*





# CASE OFFICER'S REPORT

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A complaint can be made to the Office of the Press Ombudsman about a possible breach of the Press Council's Code of Practice by a member publication

A complaint can also be made about the behaviour of a journalist if there is a possibility that that behaviour breached the Code of Practice.

All information in relation to a complaint must be received in our Office within three months of the date of publication of the article under complaint or the journalistic behaviour taking place, and the person making the complaint must be personally affected by the article or behaviour.

The **procedures for making a complaint** are simple.

The complainant must first write directly to the editor of the publication concerned. If the complainant is not happy with the response they receive from the editor, or if they do not receive a response within two weeks, our Office will then be in a position to consider the complaint formally and attempt to resolve it to the satisfaction of the complainant and the editor.

Many complaints are swiftly resolved after our Office contacts the editor and he/she offers a resolution to the complaint that is found to be acceptable to the complainant.

Some complaints are resolved through **mediation**, which is a service our Office provides for editors and complainants to meet, on a strictly voluntary and confidential basis, to discuss a complaint with the aim of working towards an agreed resolution.

The Office is always happy to offer advice and assistance to anyone who, while not wishing to make a formal complaint, may seek **guidance on how to proceed with an issue relating to the press**.

An increasing number of complaints are **resolved directly by the editor** after the complainant, following advice from the Office, contacts the editor directly. This shows clearly that where editors receive a complaint that they consider has merit, the matter can be resolved speedily and directly to the satisfaction of the complainant, thus shortening the complaints process and eliminating the necessity for the Office to get any further involved.

There is a wide range of action an editor can take to resolve a complaint, depending on the nature of the complaint and the method of publication.

The majority of complaints about **printed material** that were resolved to the complainant's satisfaction were resolved by the publication of a correction, an apology, a clarification or a right of reply.

Complaints about online material that were resolved to the complainant's satisfaction were resolved in a number of different ways, some examples of which are detailed below.

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A mother complained about a number of online articles which reported on a civil court case involving her young child because the articles included the name and address of the child. The complaints were resolved to the mother's satisfaction when two of the publications explained that they had reported on a case that was conducted in open court and upon which no reporting restrictions had been imposed, but as a gesture of goodwill deleted the child's name and address from the online articles. Another publication decided to delete the entire article.

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A man complained about the publication of an online article that reported on a vicious assault that he had witnessed. He said that the man who carried out the assault had a history of aggressive and dangerous behaviour, and he lived in fear that the assailant would come after him. The publication accepted the man's concerns and deleted the online article.

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An election candidate complained that a number of publications had omitted to include his name in their published list of election candidates. The matter was swiftly resolved when the matter was brought to the attention of the editors concerned and the man's name, profile and photograph were immediately added to the lists.

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A woman complained about an online article, the print version of which was previously the subject of a complaint by her to our Office that resulted in the publication of a correction. However, the article remained online and she complained that the correction that had been published in print was not linked to the online article. On being made aware of the situation the editor immediately attached a copy of the correction to the online article.

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A man contacted the Office about the publication online of a video of him proposing to his then girlfriend, from whom he was now estranged. The video was deleted by the editor when the man explained the change in his circumstances.

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A woman contacted the Office about the continued publication of her photograph online. It had been provided to the newspaper by the company for which she had previously worked but had now left. The editor quickly deleted the image following the woman's request for it to be deleted.

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A woman complained about the publication of her picture at a Christmas staff party, which accompanied an online article about the ill-treatment of a patient in a hospital. The woman complained that the publication of her photograph gave the impression that she worked in the hospital and was associated with the ill-treatment of the patient (she didn't work in the hospital). The editor deleted the photograph.

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In 2016 we ran a number of **information seminars** for voluntary organisations and advocacy groups, including seminars for members of the travelling community, refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

We also participated in eight information seminars around the country hosted by An Garda Síochána, which were designed specifically for the Garda Family Liaison Officers who work directly with the most traumatised **victims of crime**. The staff at the Garda Victim Liaison Office, which forms part of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau, requested a presentation from the Press Ombudsman's Office to assist the Family Liaison Officers if privacy became an issue for a victim of crime. While some victims might want to share their

stories with the press, others may find the attention intrusive and upsetting, especially if they are trying to come to terms with what has happened in their lives. The seminars highlighted the action victims could take in advance of an approach from the press, and what they could do if they had a complaint after something was published.

Our Office is committed to publicising the service that we provide as widely as possible, and to **seeking out opportunities to engage with the public** so as to ensure that our services are familiar to those who might need them.



**BERNIE GROGAN**

*Case Officer*



**MIRIAM LAFFAN**

*PA/Administration*



## LOCKING HORNS

*by Niall Carson / Press Association*

*Fallow deer clash antlers during rutting season in the Phoenix Park, Dublin*



# THE PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

The Press Council of Ireland has 13 members who are appointed by an Independent Appointments Committee. The members of the Appointments Committee during 2016 were Dr Maurice Manning, Mr David Begg, Ms Miriam Hederman-O'Brien and the Chair of the Press Council.

Seven members of the Press Council, including the chair, 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.

Three independent members of the Press Council retired in 2016. Mr Dáithí O'Ceallaigh retired after serving six years as Chair of the Council. Following a public competition he was replaced in September 2016 by Mr Seán Donlon. Professor Áine Hyland and Ms Ann Carroll also retired, and they were replaced by Ms Patricia O'Donovan and Dr Ruth Barrington.

Two members drawn from the press industry, Mr Michael Brophy and Mr Dave O'Connell, retired in 2016. They were replaced by Mr Michael Denieffe and Mr Ken Davis. Dr John Lynch replaced Mr Denieffe when he retired towards the end of the year.

At 31 December 2016, the members of the Press Council, who ex officio constitute the Board of Directors of the Press Council of Ireland CLG, were as follows:

### INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

- Mr Seán Donlon (Chair)
- Mr Brendan Butler (Deputy Chair)
- Ms Patricia Sisk Taormina
- Mr Denis Doherty
- Ms Denise Charlton
- Ms Patricia O'Donovan
- Dr Ruth Barrington

### MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE PRESS INDUSTRY

- Ms Norah Casey
- Mr Kevan Furbank
- Mr Deaglán de Bréadún
- Mr Patrick Smyth
- Mr Ken Davis
- Dr John J Lynch

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Press Council held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, 27 May 2016. The meeting approved the company accounts and appointed LMH Casey McGrath Limited as the company's auditors.



## SWIMMING

by Morgan Treacy / Inpho Photography

*Triathlete Aileen Reid photographed for a series of portraits on Irish Olympians*

### APPEALS

Either party to a complaint which is the subject of a decision of 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 2016 the Press Council considered 13 appeals. Five of these were submitted by complainants and eight by publications (in one case both the publication and the complainant appealed).

The Press Council allowed one appeal and affirmed the decision of the Press Ombudsman in the other cases.

### 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.

#### MEMBERS OF THE CODE COMMITTEE

- Mr Brendan Keenan (Chair)
- 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)



**MEMBERS**

*photograph provided courtesy of The Irish Times*

*Back row L to R:  
Ruth Barrington  
Deaglán de Bréadún  
Patricia O'Donovan  
Ken Davis  
Kevan Furbank  
Paddy Smyth  
Denise Charlton  
Denis Doherty*

*Seated L to R:  
Patricia Sisk Taormina  
Brendan Butler (Deputy-Chair)  
Seán Donlon (Chair)  
Norah Casey*

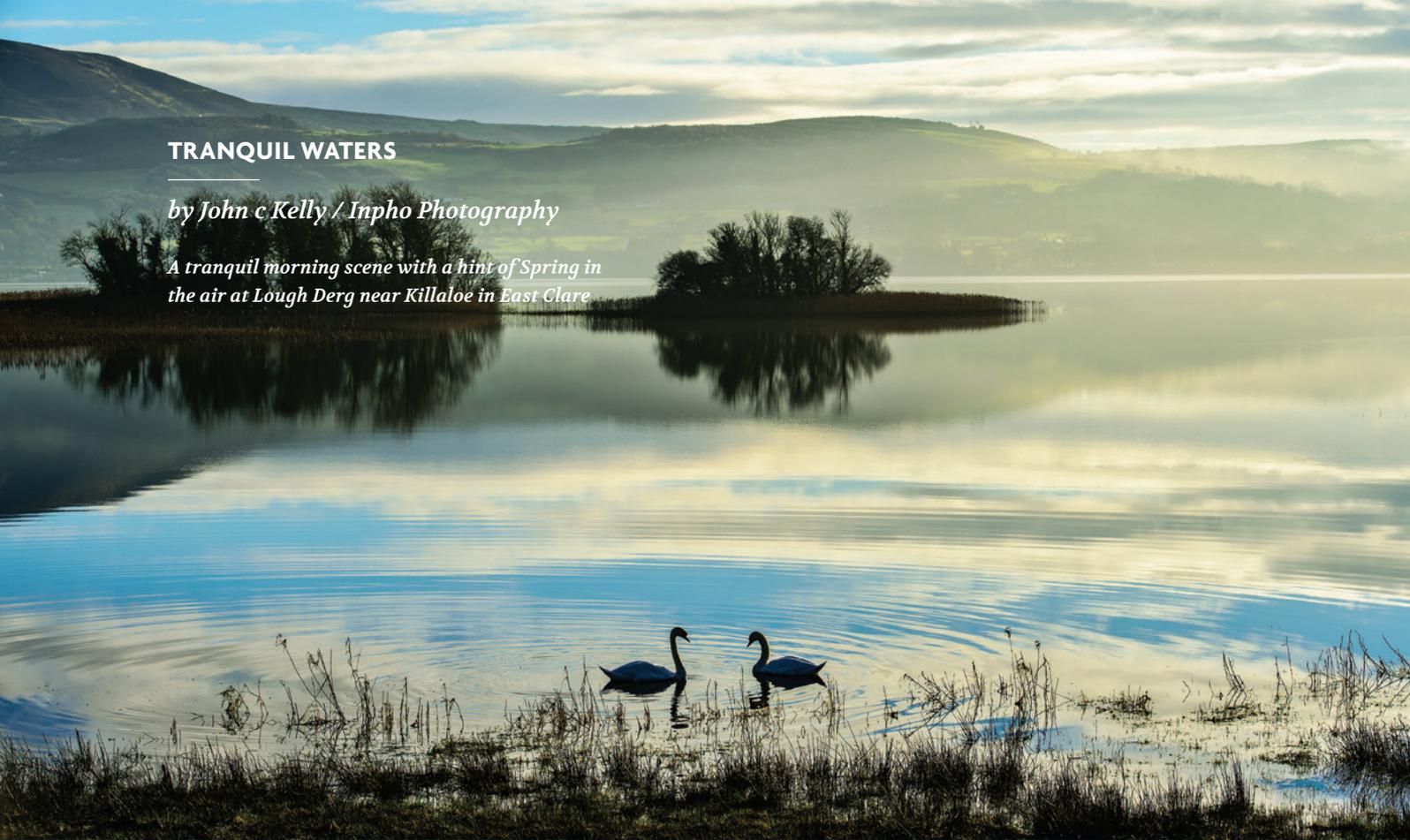
*Missing from photograph:  
John J Lynch*

## TRANQUIL WATERS

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*by John c Kelly / Inpho Photography*

*A tranquil morning scene with a hint of Spring in the air at Lough Derg near Killaloe in East Clare*



# FINANCE REPORT

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The finances of the Press Council of Ireland are provided, under the terms of its Constitution, by the Administrative Committee of the Press Council, which was chaired in 2016 by Professor Áine Hyland, an independent member of the Council, and following her retirement, by Brendan Butler, also an independent member of the Council.



## STEP TOGETHER

*by Gerry Mooney, PPAI Photographer of the Year 2017/INM*

*Members of the Defence Forces march through the streets of Dublin during the Easter rising centenary celebration parade.*

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 2016 of the Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman, together with comparative figures for the previous year, are as follows:

	2016	2015		2016	2015
Directors' fees	€60,000	€65,000	Legal and professional	€3,495	€1,260
Staff salaries	€219,971	€215,842	Auditors' remuneration	€3,650	€4,000
Employer PRSI contributions for staff	€14,881	€22,456	Bank charges	€260	€227
Retirement benefits - defined contribution scheme	€6,132	€6,099	Sundry expenses	€4,978	€1,928
Conference attendance costs	€737	€200	Rent, rates and services	€80,833*	€62,856
Hotels, travel and subsistence	€5,881	€2,690	Cleaning	€1,295	€1,356
Printing and stationery	€7,065	€6,796	Insurances	€3,983	€5,988
Telephone	€1,764	€1,702	Seminars	-	€3,325
Computer costs	€12,440	€13,310	Management services	€20,000	€24,000
Memberships	€795	€1,026	Annual Report and launch	€7,071	€5,521
			Relocation costs	€9,171	€11,457
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€463,902</b>	<b>€457,039</b>

\*Provision recognised for rent settlement payable in March 2017 in the amount of €47,500 which relates to transactions which occurred in 2016. This has been adjusted for in the financial statements to December 2016.

The full Directors' Report and Financial Statements for 2016 are available on the Press Council's website [www.presscouncil.ie](http://www.presscouncil.ie)

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

**AT 31 DECEMBER 2016 THE MEMBERS WERE:**

Brendan Butler (Chair)

Mr Adrian Acosta

Ms Grace Aungier

Mr Vincent Crowley

Mr Seamus Dooley

Mr Oliver Keenaghan

Mr David McDonagh

Ms Ann Marie Lenihan

Mr Eoin McVey

Mr Johnny O'Hanlon

# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

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## NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

### **Herald**

Independent House,  
27-32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.  
01 705 5333  
[www.herald.ie](http://www.herald.ie)

### **Irish Daily Mail**

DMG Media (Ireland), 3rd Floor,  
Embassy House, Herbert Park Lane,  
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.  
01 637 5800  
[www.mailonline.ie](http://www.mailonline.ie)

### **Irish Daily Mirror**

Park House, 4th Floor,  
191 - 197 North Circular Road, Dublin 7.  
01 868 8600  
[www.irishmirror.ie](http://www.irishmirror.ie)

### **Irish Daily Star**

Independent Star Ltd, Independent  
House, 27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.  
01 499 3400  
[www.thestar.ie](http://www.thestar.ie)

### **Irish Examiner**

Irish Examiner, Linn Dubh,  
Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.  
021 427 2722  
[www.irishexaminer.com](http://www.irishexaminer.com)

### **Irish Farmers Journal**

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.  
01 419 9599  
[www.farmersjournal.ie](http://www.farmersjournal.ie)

### **Irish Independent**

Independent House, 27-32 Talbot  
Street, Dublin 1.  
01 705 5333  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

### **Irish Mail on Sunday**

DMG Media (Ireland), 3rd Floor,  
Embassy House, Herbert Park Lane,  
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.  
01 637 5800  
[www.mailonline.ie](http://www.mailonline.ie)

### **Irish Sun**

4th Floor, Bishop's Square,  
Redmond's Hill, Dublin 2.  
01 479 2579  
[www.thesun.ie](http://www.thesun.ie)

### **Irish Sun on Sunday**

4th Floor, Bishop's Square,  
Redmond's Hill, Dublin 2.  
01 479 2579  
[www.thesun.ie](http://www.thesun.ie)

### **Irish Sunday Mirror**

Park House, 4th Floor,  
191 - 197 North Circular Road, Dublin 7.  
01 868 8600  
[www.irishmirror.ie](http://www.irishmirror.ie)

### **Sunday Business Post**

Hambleden House,  
19/26 Pembroke Street Lower,  
Dublin 2.  
01 602 6000  
[www.businesspost.ie](http://www.businesspost.ie)

### **Sunday Independent**

Independent House, 27-32 Talbot  
Street, Dublin 1.  
01 705 5333  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

### **Sunday World**

5th Floor, Independent House,  
27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.  
01 884 8973  
[www.sundayworld.com](http://www.sundayworld.com)

### **The Irish Times**

The Irish Times Building,  
PO Box 74, 24-28 Tara Street, Dublin 2.  
01 675 8000  
[www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com)

### **The Sunday Times**

4th Floor, Bishop's Square,  
Redmond's Hill, Dublin 2.  
01 479 2400  
[www.sundaytimes.ie](http://www.sundaytimes.ie)

## LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

### Anglo Celt

Anglo Celt, Station House,  
Cavan, Co. Cavan.  
049 433 1100  
[www.anglocelt.ie](http://www.anglocelt.ie)

### Bray People

Channing House,  
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.  
053 914 0100  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

### Carlow Nationalist

Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.  
059 917 0100  
[www.carlow-nationalist.ie](http://www.carlow-nationalist.ie)

### Carlow People

Channing House,  
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.  
053 914 0100  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

### Clare Champion

Barrack Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.  
065 682 8105  
[www.clarechampion.ie](http://www.clarechampion.ie)

### Connacht Tribune

15 Market Street, Galway.  
091 536 222  
[www.connachttribune.ie](http://www.connachttribune.ie)

### Connaught Telegraph

No. 1 Main Street, Castlebar,  
Co. Mayo.  
094 902 1711  
[www.con-telegraph.ie](http://www.con-telegraph.ie)

### Derry News

26 Balliniska Rd, Springtown  
Industrial Est, Derry.  
00 44 28 7129 6600  
[www.derrynews.com](http://www.derrynews.com)

### Donegal Democrat

Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal.  
074 974 0160  
[www.donegaldemocrat.ie](http://www.donegaldemocrat.ie)

### Donegal News

St. Anne's Court, High Road,  
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.  
074 912 1014  
[www.donegalnews.com](http://www.donegalnews.com)

### Donegal People's Press

Larkin House, Oldtown Road,  
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.  
074 974 0160  
[www.donegaldemocrat.ie](http://www.donegaldemocrat.ie)

### Dundalk Democrat

7 Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.  
042 933 4058  
[www.dundalkdemocrat.ie](http://www.dundalkdemocrat.ie)

### Enniscorthy Echo

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy,  
Co Wexford.  
053 925 9900  
[www.wexfordecho.ie](http://www.wexfordecho.ie)

### Enniscorthy Guardian

Channing House,  
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.  
053 914 0100  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

### Evening Echo

Linn Dubh,  
Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.  
021 427 2722  
[www.eecho.ie](http://www.eecho.ie)

### Gorey Echo

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy,  
Co. Wexford.  
053 925 9900  
[www.wexfordecho.ie](http://www.wexfordecho.ie)

### Gorey Guardian

Channing House,  
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.  
053 914 0100  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

### Kildare Nationalist

Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.  
045 432 147  
[www.kildare-nationalist.ie](http://www.kildare-nationalist.ie)

### Kilkenny People

34 High Street, Kilkenny .  
056 772 1015  
[www.kilkennypeople.ie](http://www.kilkennypeople.ie)

### Laois Nationalist

Coliseum Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
057 867 0216  
[www.laois-nationalist.ie](http://www.laois-nationalist.ie)

**Leinster Express**

107 Lower Main Street,  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
057 862 1666  
[www.leinsterexpress.ie](http://www.leinsterexpress.ie)

**Leinster Leader**

19 South Main Street,  
Naas, Co. Kildare.  
045 897 302  
[www.leinsterleader.ie](http://www.leinsterleader.ie)

**Leitrim Observer**

3 Hartley Business Park,  
Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.  
071 962 0025  
[www.leitrimobserver.ie](http://www.leitrimobserver.ie)

**Limerick Chronicle**

54 O'Connell Street, Limerick.  
061 214 500  
[www.limerickleader.ie](http://www.limerickleader.ie)

**Limerick Leader**

54 O'Connell Street, Limerick.  
061 214 500  
[www.limerickleader.ie](http://www.limerickleader.ie)

**Longford Leader**

Leader House, Dublin Road, Longford.  
043 334 5241  
[www.longfordleader.ie](http://www.longfordleader.ie)

**Mayo News**

The Fairgreen, Westport, Co. Mayo.  
098 253 11  
[www.mayonews.ie](http://www.mayonews.ie)

**Meath Chronicle**

Market Square, Navan, Co. Meath.  
046 907 9600  
[www.meathchronicle.ie](http://www.meathchronicle.ie)

**Munster Express**

37 The Quay, Waterford.  
051 872 141  
[www.munster-express.ie](http://www.munster-express.ie)

**Nationalist/Clonmel**

Queen Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.  
052 617 2500  
[www.nationalist.ie](http://www.nationalist.ie)

**Nenagh Guardian**

13 Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.  
067 312 14  
[www.nenaghguardian.ie](http://www.nenaghguardian.ie)

**New Ross Echo**

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy,  
Co. Wexford.  
053 925 9900  
[www.wexfordecho.ie](http://www.wexfordecho.ie)

**New Ross Standard**

Channing House,  
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.  
053 914 0100  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**Northern Standard**

The Diamond, Monaghan,  
Co. Monaghan.  
047 821 88  
[www.northernstandard.ie](http://www.northernstandard.ie)

**Roscommon Herald**

St. Patricks Street, Boyle,  
Co. Roscommon.  
071 966 2004  
[www.roscommonherald.ie](http://www.roscommonherald.ie)

**Sligo Champion**

Connacht House,  
Markievicz Road, Sligo.  
071 916 9222  
[www.sligochampion.ie](http://www.sligochampion.ie)

**Southern Star**

Ilen Street, Skibereen, Co. Cork.  
028 212 00  
[www.southernstar.ie](http://www.southernstar.ie)

**The Argus**

Partnership Court, Park Street,  
Dundalk, Co. Louth.  
042 933 4632  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**The Avondu**

Avondu Press, 18 Lower Cork Street,  
Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.  
025 24451  
[www.avondhupress.ie](http://www.avondhupress.ie)

**The Corkman**

The Spa, Mallow, Co. Cork.  
022 423 94  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**The Drogheda Independent**

9 Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
041 983 8658  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**The Fingal Independent**

Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin.  
01 840 7107  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**The Kerryman**

Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.  
066 714 5560  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**Tipperary Star**

Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.  
0504 291 00  
[www.tipperarystar.ie](http://www.tipperarystar.ie)

**Tuam Herald**

Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.  
093 241 83  
[www.tuamherald.ie](http://www.tuamherald.ie)

**Waterford News & Star**

Gladstone House, Gladstone Street,  
Waterford.  
051 874 951  
[www.waterford-news.com](http://www.waterford-news.com)

**Western People**

Tone Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo.  
096 60 999  
[www.westernpeople.ie](http://www.westernpeople.ie)

**Westmeath Examiner**

Blackhall Place, Mullingar,  
Co. Westmeath.  
044 934 6700  
[www.westmeathexaminer.ie](http://www.westmeathexaminer.ie)

**Westmeath Independent**

11 Sean Costello Street,  
Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
090 643 4300  
[www.westmeathindependent.ie](http://www.westmeathindependent.ie)

**Wexford Echo**

17 Selskar Street, Wexford,  
Co Wexford.  
053 914 2948  
[www.wexfordecho.ie](http://www.wexfordecho.ie)

**Wexford People**

Channing House,  
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.  
053 914 0100  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**Wicklow People**

Channing House,  
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.  
053 914 0100  
[www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie)

**MAGAZINES****Accountancy Ireland**

Chartered Accountants House,  
47 - 49 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.  
01 637 7392  
[www.accountancyireland.ie](http://www.accountancyireland.ie)

**Auto Trade Journal**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,  
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.  
090 662 5676  
[www.autotrade.ie](http://www.autotrade.ie)

**Business Plus**

30 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4.  
01 660 8400  
[www.bizplus.ie](http://www.bizplus.ie)

**Euro Times**

ESCRS, Temple House, Temple Road,  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.  
01 209 1100  
[www.eurotimes.org](http://www.eurotimes.org)

**Food & Wine Magazine**

Harmonia Ltd., Rosemount House,  
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.  
01 240 5300  
[www.foodandwinemagazine.ie](http://www.foodandwinemagazine.ie)

**Hotpress**

13 Trinity Street, Dublin 2.  
01 241 1500  
[www.hotpress.com](http://www.hotpress.com)

**Ireland of the Welcomes**

Harmonia Ltd., Rosemount House,  
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.  
01 240 5300  
[www.irelandofthewelcomes.com](http://www.irelandofthewelcomes.com)

**Irish Auto Trade Yearbook & Diary**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,  
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.  
090 662 5676  
www.autotrade.ie

**Irish Bodyshop Journal**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,  
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.  
090 662 5676  
www.bodyshop.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**

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,  
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.  
01 240 5300  
www.irishtatler.ie

**ITIA Yearbook & Diary**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,  
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.  
090 662 5676  
www.tyretrade.ie

**Law Society Gazette**

Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.  
01 672 4828  
www.lawsocietygazette.ie

**Motley**

Communications Officer,  
UCC Students Union,  
54 College Road, Cork.  
021 490 3218  
www.motley.ie

**Motorshow - Annual Car Buyers Guide**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,  
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.  
090 662 5676  
www.motorshow.ie

**RTE Guide**

RTE Publishing, RTE, Donnybrook,  
Dublin 4.  
01 208 2920  
www.rteguide.ie

**SIN**

Sin Magazine, C/o Students Union,  
Aras na Mac Leinn, NUI Galway.  
091 493 262  
www.sin.ie

**Síocháin**

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

**Trinity News**

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.  
01 896 2335  
www.trinitynews.ie

**TYRE Trade Journal**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,  
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.  
090 662 5676  
www.tyretrade.ie

**U Magazine**

Harmonia Ltd., Rosemount House,  
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.  
01 240 5300  
www.umagazine.ie

**UCC Express**

Communications Officer,  
UCC Students Union,  
54 College Road, Cork.  
021 490 3218  
www.uccexpress.ie

**Village**

Ormond Quay Publishing,  
6 Ormond Quay, Dublin 7.  
01 873 5824  
www.villagemagazine.ie

**WMB**

2nd Floor, Paradigm House, Dundrum  
Office Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14.  
01 296 4025  
[www.womenmeanbusiness.com](http://www.womenmeanbusiness.com)

**Woman's Way**

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,  
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.  
01 240 5300  
[www.womansway.ie](http://www.womansway.ie)

**Work & Life Magazine**

IMPACT Trade Union,  
Nerneys Court, Dublin 1.  
01 817 1500  
[www.impact.ie](http://www.impact.ie)

**ONLINE ONLY NEWS  
PUBLICATIONS****Evoke.ie**

DMG Media (Ireland),  
3rd Floor, Embassy House,  
Herbert Park Lane, Ballsbridge,  
Dublin 4.  
01 256 0800  
[www.evoke.ie](http://www.evoke.ie)

**Offaly Express**

107 Lower Main Street,  
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.  
057 862 1666  
[www.offalyexpress.ie](http://www.offalyexpress.ie)

**Thejournal.ie**

Journal Media Ltd,  
3rd Floor, Lattin Hall,  
Golden Lane, Dublin 8.  
01 902 2487  
[www.thejournal.ie](http://www.thejournal.ie)

# CODE OF PRACTICE

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## 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 were 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 organization 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. This should not be interpreted as restricting the right to report judicial proceedings.

**5.4** In the reporting of suicide, excessive detail of the means of suicide should be avoided.

**5.5** 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.

**5.6** 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**

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.

## 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 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, the press 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.

PRESS COUNCIL  
OF IRELAND



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESS  
OMBUDSMAN

3 Westland Square, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, DO2 N567.

T: 01 6489130 LoCall: 1890 208 080 Email: [info@pressombudsman.ie](mailto:info@pressombudsman.ie)

[www.presscouncil.ie](http://www.presscouncil.ie)

[www.pressombudsman.ie](http://www.pressombudsman.ie)