

INTRODUCTION

Waypride Ltd T/A Champion Media Group are local independent publishers based in Southport and have been trading since 1994. They currently publish eight free newspaper titles in Sefton and West Lancashire. The titles are Southport Champion, Formby Champion, Ormskirk & West Lancashire Champion, Skelmersdale Champion, Aintree and Maghull Champion, Crosby & Litherland Champion, Bootle Champion and Anfield and Walton Champion.

The publisher's responsible person is Lyndsey Naylor – Managing Director.

EDITORIAL STANDARDS

Champion Newspapers adheres to the Editor's Code of Practice and strives to maintain the very highest of editorial standards. Should we need to seek editorial guidance from IPSO we would not hesitate to do so. We have not, to date, had cause to do so. Re: verification of stories – we are a local weekly newspaper and not in the habit of concocting stories therefore we expect our industry-trained journalists to follow the highest of editorial standards and professionalism.

COMPLAINTS HANDLING

Editorial complaints are, depending on the nature of the complaint, in the first instance handled by the reporter, and if not resolved passed on to the editor for resolution.

If not resolved we would advise the complainant to take up the relevant issue with IPSO in order to seek resolution or, via the appropriate legal channels should IPSO be passed over, as it usually is.

TRAINING PROCESS

Current Champion reporters have been employed via the industry's own recognised training bodies ie the NCTJ and as such have the relevant journalistic skills required to perform their roles. Any other training requirements are readily available if required or requested. We do not have training manuals but rather hold one-to-one assessments with reporters and subbing staff to cover issues such as copy style, law updates, and any other relevant issues they need guidance on.

COMPLIANCE

Two complaints have been directed to IPSO by Champion readers – one a letter writer unhappy we changed the incorrect name of an airport mentioned in his letter, to the correct name (a complaint upon which IPSO has still not forwarded us any adjudication despite us adhering to all requests from IPSO for us to provide the relevant information to them in order to deal with the matter speedily). IPSO seemed intent on looking into this ‘complaint’ despite the obvious absurdity of it. However, IPSO is yet to have the courtesy to inform us of its findings even though this complaint has dragged on for many months.

A second complaint was forwarded to IPSO by a reader which was subsequently found in the Champion’s favour. However, a search of IPSO’s rulings on its own website fails to reveal the nature of the complaint or the findings although written confirmation was forwarded to the publisher.

There are no incidents in relation to the publisher accepting it had breached the Editor’s Code.