

Regional Media Ltd

Introduction

Regional Media Ltd was formed in April 2015 after the purchase of all the shares from Garnett Dickinson.

Our products mainly cover Rotherham and South & East Barnsley.

Products:

Rotherham Advertiser

Rotherham Record

Dearne Valley Weekender

Chase Magazine

www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk

Editor: Andrew Mosley

Our editorial standards

Our approach to editorial standards is the same as any other newspaper's. We always verify our sources and authenticate documents and, if we cannot, we do not go ahead with the story. All our stories are published in line with guidance and law set out in the Editor's Code of Practice and McNae's Essential Law for Journalists, of which all reporters have copies and refer to.

We have not yet sought guidance from IPSO, but would do so if a complaint reached the stage where we could not settle on an agreement with the complainant or if we believed we may be in the wrong.

Our approach is always to verify sources and authenticate documents. We have done so in a number of stories related to the Rotherham child sexual exploitation scandal in which victims have not been named, suspects not been named and locations of alleged incidents been left out unless we are 100 per cent sure of their accuracy. We have also left out names and addresses on victims in relation to court cases which may involve children or family members. We would never print a story involving evidence contained within a document having not seen and carried out checks on the article ourselves.

Another example relates to a story of a racist incident involving Rotherham United player Kirk Broadfoot. We were aware of rumours circulating as to why Broadfoot had been left out of the team and received a call saying it was because he was involved in a sectarian incident during a game. The Football Association confirmed a ban but not the player's name or why. At this stage we could not go ahead with much of a story, but contacted Wigan Athletic in the belief that the incident occurred in a game involving the team. They confirmed this, the nature of the complaint and the player who made it. We then approached Rotherham United again, who confirmed the player's ban, and the FA, who agreed our facts, though would not comment further. The story made most of the nationals the following day.

Our complaints-handling process

We will accept complaints by phone, email, letter, in person or via social media and the complaint will at first be handled by a reporter and, if a conclusion is not reached, escalated to newsdesk and then the editor, who records and keeps details of all complaints even if a conclusion has been agreed.

We will always attempt to deal with the complaint on the day it is made or, if that is not possible due to, for example, a reporter's absence, as soon as possible afterwards – always within seven days.

We will always attempt to come to a conclusion that is satisfactory to both parties, which may result in a correction published in a position in the paper agreed with the complainant, an apology, or sometimes it may simply be that a discussion/meeting clears the air.

If an agreement cannot be reached we will refer the complainant to IPSO and its complaints procedure, which we will then follow.

The contacts of all editorial staff are on page two of our publications and staff do make complainants aware of IPSO and the complaints procedure. We will now add details of IPSO, where details of the Press Complaints Commission was previously published, on page two.

Our training process

All reporters are fully qualified and have undertaken law courses, one attending a refresher course last year.

All staff have copies of the Editor's Code of Practice and McNae's Essential Law for Journalists and refer to these on a daily basis.

There are no current plans for further training, though refresher courses are always a considered option.

Our record on compliance

We have not yet had a complaint that has gone to IPSO, though previously had several which were referred to the PCC, though none resulted in an adverse adjudication.

We have not, in the period, accepted a breach of the Editor's Code of Practice, but if we believed we had breached the code we would contact IPSO for advice upon a complaint being made.

Resources

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