

Dominic Ponsford

Press Gazette

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IPSO annual publisher's statement

Press Gazette is a news website and information resource for journalists. Launched in 1965 as a magazine it is now online-only and has a monthly readership of around 200,000 unique browsers.

Press Gazette also has daily and weekly email newsletters and is active on social media. It has an editorial team of three: editor, chief reporter and reporter. It is published by Compelo.

Its 'responsible person' is editor Freddy Mayhew, assisted by editor-in-chief Dominic Ponsford. Over the last 18 months my role has become less hands-on and Freddy is in charge of the day to day running of the site. As well as editor in chief of Press Gazette I am head of news for GlobalData plc.

Press Gazette follows the Editors' Code and ensures that all staff are aware of it, read it and follow it closely. All editorial staff are NCTJ-trained.

Our general policy is to show not tell. We report. We take care to record both sides of every story and to ensure that the subjects of any story are given the chance to respond to criticism and verify any facts.

All editorial complaints are made to the editor and can be made via email, post or telephone. Press Gazette invites readers to point out errors or complain about stories by contacting the editor. This information is contained in an article which is linked to from the main homepage:
<http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/how-complain-or-point-out-error-press-gazette>

We also invite readers to get in touch with IPSO if they are unhappy with the way we have handled a complaint and provide contact details.

We had one major complaint since our last annual statement.

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05484-18>

This involved a woman who was unhappy about a reader comment which appeared on Press Gazette. As we could not verify the claims made in the comment we gave her the benefit of the doubt and removed the comment once notified.

The comment was left live for some months after an initial anonymous email was received by the woman in which she complained about it. On reflection, the comment in question should have been removed earlier once it had been flagged up to Press Gazette. Even though the complaint was anonymous and the comment was not sufficiently robustly reviewed. Press Gazette now has a policy to thoroughly review any reader comments which are flagged as problematical, even if the complainant is anonymous.

Any mistakes on Press Gazette are normally corrected within minutes of them being pointed out as soon as we have satisfied ourselves that we are in fact wrong.

In addition to the Editors' Code we also follow our own style guide which goes a bit further and outlines or policy on things like treatment of sources: <http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/press-gazette-style-guide-includes-advice-on-off-the-recordshowdont-tell-and-our-banned-list/>

We have not had any reason yet to use the IPSO pre-publication advice service. But we may well do in the future.

Yours sincerely, Dominic Ponsford.

Editor in chief - Press Gazette.