

Sunday World Annual Statement 2018

My name is Richard Sullivan, I am Northern Editor of the Sunday World based in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The Sunday World is an all-Ireland publication with separate north and south editions. The northern edition started in March 1973 and was the first red top tabloid indigenous to the region.

Our reputation is staked wholly on investigative journalism, we report on crime and have a long history in exposing paramilitary organisations.

Our reporters carry out their jobs at no little risk. The first editor of the Sunday World Jim Campbell survived a murder attempt by the Ulster Volunteer Force. He was shot five times at the door of his home in 1984 and still has a bullet lodged in his back.

Martin O'Hagan, a crime reporter with the Sunday World was shot and killed in 2001 by the Loyalist Volunteer Force because of his work exposing that terrorist organisation.

My predecessor as Northern Editor Jim McDowell was subjected to numerous death threats which required enhanced security at his home. He was physically assaulted by a UVF gang in Belfast city centre.

We have had a bomb planted at our office and our office has been firebombed.

Staff received numerous death threats from both republican and loyalist paramilitary groups over the years.

The Sunday World is owned by Independent News and Media which is based in Dublin but which also owns Belfast based titles the Sunday Life and Belfast Telegraph.

The company also published the Dublin based Independent, Sunday Independent and Evening Herald.

Our online platform is independent.ie

The publisher's approach to editorial standards is set out in the company Code of Conduct. Editorial staff are expected to adhere to the highest standards of responsible journalism.

Stories are verified in the normal fashion, by way of fact checking and the cultivation of reliable sources.

The Sunday World has not had to seek particular guidance from IPSO. We have been members for less than a year and in that time have only had to deal with a total of five complaints only one of which resulted in a clarification being printed.

One complaint currently remains unresolved.

As the Editor I deal with all IPSO correspondence including responding to complainants.

Our staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Code, company solicitors host regular refresher courses on the law and the parameters set out by IPSO.

I have enclosed copies of correspondence in relation to resolved complaints in the period of our membership.

Regards

Richard Sullivan – Northern Editor Sunday World.

Independent Newspapers and Sunday World

Editorial Code of Practice

Edward McCann,
Group Managing Editor

November 2017

Summary

Independent Newspapers and the Sunday World are pledged to be professional, courageous and relentless in its pursuit of truth and of news. It is also committed to independence, fairness and balance in informing people of events and issues about which they have a right to know.

An important goal of this code is to protect and foster the bond of trust between Independent News and Media (INM) in print and online and our audience.

The reputation of our brands is based on the editorial independence, integrity and high standards of our journalism. Full editorial control lies with the Editor-in-Chief and Editors.

The Editors and the editorial executives of the titles within the group are committed to defining, upholding and protecting those standards in every aspect of journalistic work. Central to those principles is the public's right to be informed on issues of public interest. This right is balanced by compliance with relevant legal codes, in particular the laws of defamation, and adherence to the principles of taste, balance, and accuracy.

Independent Newspapers and the Sunday World adhere to the Press Ombudsman/Press Council of Ireland Editors' Code of Practice (See Appendix 1).

Every staff member must read this document carefully and reflect on how it might apply to his or her duties.

The provisions presented here can offer only broad principles and some examples. No written document could anticipate every possibility. We expect staff members to consult the Group Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Editors or other senior staff if they have any doubts about any particular situation covered by this document.

INM believes that its staff share the values this code is intended to protect. It will be the policy of the company to try to resolve any differences of opinion or concerns over the application of these values through discussion. Nevertheless, INM will view any deliberate violation of this code as serious and this may be the subject of a formal investigation.

1. General

Journalists have a duty to observe and comply with the full letter and spirit of this Code of Conduct in the performance of duties for and in the name of Independent News and Media. Journalists are expected to exhibit a high standard of propriety, integrity, efficiency and competence in all dealings.

2. Accuracy, distinguish fact from comment

Journalists must strive to be accurate and establish the facts of circumstances. Stories must be well sourced, based on sound evidence, thoroughly tested and presented in language which distinguishes clearly between comment, conjecture and fact. Unfounded speculation should be avoided.

3. Fact checking

Journalists must check and verify information, facts and documents. Vigilance and fact-checking should be applied to information sources, particularly those researched on the internet. This may include confirming with an individual or organisation that they posted online material and satisfying yourself that it is accurate. Online sources, while useful, should not be the sole source of information and should be treated with appropriate caution.

The important thing to remember is that when you are dealing with facts, you either have the full facts or you don't. If you have a doubt, always check it out. You can never, ever assume.

4. Hear the other side

It is a basic tenet of good and responsible journalism to put any critical or damaging claim or allegation to the subject before publication. This requirement will also assist in defending any defamation action.

Where allegations are being made, the individual or organisation concerned should always be given a fair opportunity to respond to the allegations before publication. Journalists should always describe the allegations in sufficient detail to enable an informed response. They should also give sufficient time for a response. The response should be reflected fairly and accurately. You may not get one. You may even get an emphatic denial which may give you pause for thought. Records should be kept of attempts to get a reply if one is not forthcoming.

There may be circumstances where getting a response is not feasible, practical or realistic. There must be strong reasons for believing that the subject matter is sufficiently newsworthy and in the public interest to justify publication in the absence of a response.

In such cases, the Group Head of News, Managing Editor or Group Editor-in-Chief must always be consulted.

5. Opinions

Journalists have a right to trenchant opinions on matters of public interest. However, journalists have a duty to ensure that when they comment on a matter of public interest that such comment is based upon facts which are either set out in the article or are otherwise known to the reader.

Writers of comment need to be aware that the rules about getting facts right apply to them as much as other writers. If relying on facts from other publications, always seek verification that they are true or that the circumstances have not changed.

6. Misleading readers

Journalists should never distort known facts, present invented material as fact, or knowingly do anything to mislead our readers or audience.

Journalists should ensure that any digital editing of photographs does not distort the meaning of events, alter the impact of genuine material, or otherwise materially mislead readers. Headlines and introductions to stories should accurately represent the body of the story.

7. Archived content

When archive material is used, journalists are responsible for ensuring that no legal issue has arisen in respect of that material and that it has not been overtaken by later events. Photos of individuals taken from archive must be checked to confirm identity.

Therefore, always double-check captions and verify the people in the photos are actually those named in the caption.

8. Researching online

You should be cautious how you use the internet and social media for both sourcing and verifying material for a story in terms of trustworthiness, identification in the case of a photo/video and also the copyright related to material. Apply the same rigorous standards to verifying information on social media as elsewhere.

When using a picture from social media relating to something controversial, defamatory or involving a tragedy (e.g. someone who has died), it is INM policy that unless identified by three people, including a member of the close family (in relation to a tragic event), that it should not be used.

9. Legal checking

Journalists should not publish anything which is defamatory, in contempt of court, in breach of statute, copyright or privacy or which exposes INM to any other possible legal repercussions. Journalists must always seek advice from our lawyers if in doubt about a story.

Any decision to proceed with a story, where legal concerns have been expressed, must be referred to the most senior editorial level. There may be occasions when a story is legally safe to publish but raises editorial issues, such as taste, prurience, abuse etc In these circumstances, INM seeks to strike a reasonable balance between public interest and ethical issues. While lawyers can therefore offer legal advice, the final decision remains an editorial one. The duty for the facts to be right rests with the journalist.

Always be rigorous in your fact-checking. Do not rush to publish if you have any doubt. Always consult with your editorial manager if you have concerns.

10. Complaints

Journalists should inform their Editor and the Group Managing Editor immediately of any complaint which they receive either verbally or in writing. If you are in direct contact with the complainant, for example, on the phone, be courteous and avoid confrontation. You should also take a written note. Do not offer an apology or anything which could amount to an admission of liability in any subsequent legal action.

11. Accountability/corrections

Journalists should be open to admitting mistakes. Where significant mistakes are highlighted, it is our policy to acknowledge those errors at the earliest opportunity in our Corrections and Clarifications columns. All corrections should be referred to the Group Managing Editor for approval.

12. Privacy

Privacy is a human right, protected as a personal right in the Irish Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Journalists should respect privacy and should not infringe it without legally justified cause or reason. Private behaviour, correspondence and conversation should not be brought into the public domain unless it is of clear public interest. It is essential, in order to exercise a right of freedom of expression and information, that we work within a framework which respects an individual's privacy and treats people fairly while investigating, reporting on, commenting and commentating on matters which are in the public interest to report, comment or reveal.

Public persons are entitled to privacy. However, where a person holds public office, deals with public affairs, follows a public career, or has sought or obtained publicity for his activities, publication of relevant details of his/her private life and circumstances may be justifiable where the information revealed relates to the validity of the person's conduct, the credibility of his/her public statements, the value of his/her publicly expressed views or is otherwise in the public interest.

Individuals must not be photographed or filmed in places where they have a 'reasonable expectation of privacy' unless justified by the public interest. Each case must be judged on its merits. The location, while relevant, is not itself the sole test for an expectation of privacy. The context of the story may render a situation one where an expectation of privacy may not apply. Equally, being in a public place can give rise to an expectation of privacy where intrinsically personal matters are involved. Seek advice from company lawyers or the Managing Editor if in doubt.

13. Reporting suffering and distress

We must always balance the public interest in full and accurate reporting against the need to be compassionate and to avoid any unjustified infringement of privacy when we report accidents, disasters, disturbances or war or instances where people are involved in distressing situations. In cases involving personal grief or shock, enquiries and approaches must be made with sympathy and discretion.

We should not report at private funerals if the family has requested privacy. There must be a clear public interest if we decide to proceed against requests for privacy.

14. Children

Journalists must always have regard for the vulnerability of children.

Journalists should seek the consent of parents or legal guardians or persons in similar positions – teachers etc – before interviewing children under 16. Any decision to proceed without parental consent is normally only editorially justified on the basis of a clear

public interest, or the freedom of a child or young person to express themselves in non-contentious ways. The onus is on the journalist to establish an accurate age.

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.

15. Children (photos/video)

When photographing children under the age of 16, it is imperative that no room is left for doubt about whether consent has been granted and you should always seek clarity before photographing/filming, if there is any doubt. Always bear in mind the context of the situation, whether it is likely to be in any way controversial. Under-16s must not be photographed or filmed on subjects about their welfare – or the welfare of other children – without the consent of their parent/guardian or someone in loco parentis.

Be particularly vigilant when photographing children at times of grief or at funerals.

16. Harassment

Journalists must not engage in intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit. They must not persist in questioning, phoning, pursuing or photographing people once asked to stop, unless there is a good reason not to do so. In this case, the decision must lie with the Editor after all the facts of the case have been attained by him/her (the Editor).

17. Court cases

When writing about court cases involving children or any aspect of family law or sexual offences, be aware of the law and any specific restrictions. Sometimes writers who have not been at court will comment on these cases or bring them into related stories. It is always their ongoing responsibility to check on restrictions. Journalists covering court cases should always make the news desks, Head of News and the Managing Editor aware of any specific reporting restrictions issued by a judge.

18. Your use of social media

INM encourages its journalists to engage with social media and blogs as they may assist our titles and websites in gaining exposure and growing our audience. However, it is essential that journalists adhere to the same standards on social media as they would in publishing material in one of our print titles or websites. Despite the apparent informality

of such online activities, they are publications in law and are subject to the same laws concerning defamation among other things. Our journalists should not promote political views or make offensive comments as these can undermine our reputation.

Anyone who breaches our social media policy may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

19. Subterfuge

For certain stories where there is a clear public interest and when dealing with allegations of serious criminal, fraudulent, unlawful or anti-social behaviour, it may occasionally be acceptable to use subterfuge. Subterfuge should be the minimum necessary in proportion to the subject matter. Any proposal to use subterfuge must be referred to your Editor and the Managing Editor in advance.

20. Impartiality

Journalists should seek to reflect all opinions by exploring a range of conflicting views. Journalists should be objective and even-handed in their approach.

INM will strive to reflect a wide range of opinion in its publications, and explore a range of conflict of views to allow expression to its wide readership market. INM exercises its editorial freedom to produce content about any subject at any point on the spectrum of debate as long as there are good editorial reasons for so doing.

INM's titles and websites will sometimes need to report on or interview people whose views may cause offence to our readers. This would be the subject of a clear decision from the Editor that the public interest outweighs the possible offence which may be caused. It is the policy of the titles to allow a forum for the expression of opposing views either through editorial columns or Letters to the Editor.

21. Copy approval

The general rule is that no one should be given the right to prior copy approval. Doing otherwise, no matter how trivial the subject matter of the article, impinges on the freedom of the press. On occasion, we may allow people to see copy or quotes but we are not required to change the copy. In all cases such as this, consult with the Head of Content or Managing Editor.

22. Legal

The Republic of Ireland has the harshest defamation law regime in Europe. The consequences of losing or settling actions are very expensive and damaging commercially and reputationally. Even where an action may seem to have little grounds, if our facts are

wrong, the costs of fighting the case are often prohibitive. All journalists need to be very familiar with defamation law and adhere to the fundamental tenet of journalism: check your facts.

23. Picture selection

NEVER ever take a chance on a picture. Too many defamations and embarrassing mistakes are caused by picture errors. Never select a picture for use where the subject(s) have not been identified and confirmed. ALWAYS recheck pictures of people identified as criminals, relatives or associates of criminals, subject of legal proceedings, leaving or entering court, associated with controversial circumstances such as bankruptcy, corruption etc. Agency pictures need to be carefully checked as well.

Never use a picture of a crime scene or contentious situation without checking that the location identified is absolutely accurate.

24. Mind your language

We should never casually use words likely to offend in our journalism. Use swear words only when necessary – and in consultation with senior editors. The stronger the swear word, the more you should think about it. Avoid using in headlines, pull quotes, Tweets or standfirsts. Asterisks may be used where a particularly offensive word is deemed necessary to the story.

25. Suicide / attempted suicide

When reporting suicide, care should be taken to avoid excessive detail about the method used. Please note that the term ‘commit suicide’ is considered offensive by some people. See also and familiarise yourself with the Editors’ Code of Practice (Appendix I).

26. Reviewing products or services

We should make every effort to ensure there is no element of unqualified ‘plugging’ when we review products or services. Reviews must be seen to be a service to the reader. Advertorial style material should be indicated. Negative reviews should be rigorously backed up by evidence.

27. Conflicts of interest

There must never be any suggestion that personal, commercial, business, financial or other interests have influenced INM editorial decisions. Journalists have a duty to pay

their own way. They should accept no free trips or gifts from sources other than nominal courtesies such as business lunches or seasonal gifts. Transparency is important and if in doubt run past your Editor.

We should not normally accept expenses paid trips unless they are the only way to cover a significant event or they are for travel articles or to speak at/address bona fide media or related conferences. Any proposal to accept an expenses paid trip must be referred to a senior editorial figure and approved in writing.

Under no circumstances should anyone working for INM accept personal benefits from suppliers or accept goods or services which could be construed as inducements.

These situations can be covered by explanatory letters and the gifts can be returned or redirected to appropriate charities.

Journalists are required to declare any personal interest or relationships which may affect their work. Interests should be declared on a Declaration of Personal Interest Form and given to the Managing Editor. In relation to particular stories, journalists must discuss any possible conflicts of interest with their Editor.

Journalists may not work without permission for any person or body except INM. Any payment must be approved by the Editor/Managing Editor/Editor-in-Chief. They must seek the approval of their Editor/Managing Editor for any work done with other departments in INM outside Editorial. The right to engage in freelance work for publications that compete with INM is subject to management approval in every case.

28. Foreign assignments

Editorial staff on trips for INM to dangerous parts of the world or countries where journalists can be at risk must obtain clear written permission from their head of department or editor on the scope of their task, what is expected of them and where they are going before leaving Ireland. Please consult with the Department of Foreign Affairs website which regularly updates travel advice on countries (<https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/>). Any change to the work you are being asked to do will be discussed and agreed with you and will also be put in writing so there can be no confusion.

The reason for this approach is because we place the safety of our staff at the heart of all we do. Operational decisions are based on a clear assessment of risk and journalists should be particularly cognisant of the risk in countries where there is armed conflict or a significant terrorist threat. The Managing Editor and/or HR must be made aware of all foreign trips for insurance purposes. Under no circumstances should staff unilaterally decide to venture beyond their brief by straying from one country to another. This could unwittingly place themselves and others in danger.

29. Confidentiality

Journalists must not disclose confidential information about the operations, policies or plans of INM. Disclosing confidential information to competitors will be regarded as a serious breach of the Code and will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

30. Radio and TV

Journalists who are asked to guest on radio and TV programmes should discuss the opportunity with the Editor. In deciding whether to make a radio, television or internet appearance, a journalist should consider its probable tone and content to make sure they are consistent with INM standards. They should not say anything that could not appear under their bylines. Journalists must always keep in mind that their first duty is to their title and its readers or audience. Under no circumstances should they ever scoop their newspaper or website by disclosing information which has not yet been submitted for publication.

31. Speeches, seminars and other appearances

Journalists should only make speeches and undertake other appearances subject to prior approval of their Editor, Head of News or Editor-in-Chief. They should not write for any other publications/websites unless this is approved by their Editor.

32. Business journalists

Business and financial journalists are required to disclose all financial holdings or investments and any other financial interests or dealings by them and their family. Journalists should not write about shares or securities if they know that they, their partners or close family have a significant financial interest unless they have disclosed this information to their Editor or Editor-in-Chief.

Journalists must not use for their own profit any privileged information they receive in advance of its general publication, nor should they pass on such information to others.

To maintain their integrity, journalists should not speculate by buying and selling shares on a short-term basis if they have written about them recently or know that they will be doing so in the near future.

It is essential that financial journalists do not promote, or give the impression of promoting, any business or financial service. However, where editorially justified, references may be made to particular services, businesses or branded products. In some cases, it will be editorially relevant to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of a financial service or product. Financial journalists must always guard against the impression of promoting or plugging particular products or services.

The onus is on the journalist to let INM know if they have any interests or relationships which could be perceived as a conflict of interest.

33. Confidential sources

Quotes with names attached always carry more weight. Journalists have a moral and professional obligation to protect confidential sources when anonymity is a pre-condition for the story. Care should be taken to ensure that the identities of any confidential sources are protected and do not appear in any notes that might become the subject of a court order or can be seen by third parties. When we agree to protect the identity of the source, that identity will not be made known to anyone outside INM. Before any information is accepted without full attribution, however, reporters must make every reasonable effort to get it verified. This also applies to tip-offs from unknown or criminal sources where a journalist should exercise particular caution.

Efforts should be made to get the information elsewhere and, if possible in the context of the article, a reason for protecting the source's identity should be included in the story.

When our journalists undertake to protect sources, they must establish how far the protection is required: Is it understood that the writer could be challenged to identify the source in court? Will the source give evidence if the paper is sued?

34. Note taking/recording

Journalists must either record or take accurate, reliable and contemporaneous notes of all significant conversations and other relevant information. Any such notes or recordings which provide the basis for a story must be kept for a minimum of two years. When anonymity is essential and has been offered, great care should be taken that no document, computer file or other record could identify a source. Journalists may use personal recording devices to record telephone conversations with individuals in the interests of accuracy. There is no legal obligation to inform the other side that they are being taped if the journalist is the other party to the conversation – however, if specifically asked, the journalist should confirm that the conversation is being recorded. Recordings used in this way should be retained for a minimum of two years. Any request for notes to be handed over in legal proceedings needs to be approved by the Editor and Managing Editor.

35. Publication of the decision of the Press Ombudsman

When requested or required by the Press Ombudsman and/or the Press Council to do so, INM shall publish the Ombudsman's decision in relation to a complaint with due

prominence in accordance with the publication guidelines specified by the Press Ombudsman.

36. Attribution

Journalists should never use material from other publications without permission and credit. Where stories are 'rewrites' using material in other media, there should be proper accreditation and there should be no breach of copyright. Pictures should also be properly accredited in captions.

37. Payments

In general, INM does not pay for stories, except from bona fide freelance sources. Written approval must be obtained from the Group Editor-in-Chief or Group Managing Editor in any rare exceptions.

Please note that:

- Payment or offers of payment for stories, pictures or information, which seek to exploit a particular crime or to glorify or glamorise crime in general, must not be made directly or via agents to convicted or confessed criminals or to their associates – who may include family, friends and colleagues. The only exception to this is if it is approved by the Editor-in-Chief/Managing Editor and this would only be done if clearly in the public interest and unobtainable without such a payment.
- No payments should be made to serving public officials.

38. Data protection

Journalists have a right to gather information and process it for journalistic purposes and have an exemption under data protection law to do so. This right should not be abused - the information gathered should not be used for any other reason and must be kept safely with the journalist and with the print or online title. It should not be given to third parties unless for journalistic reasons.

Reasonable steps should be taken to ensure any personal data is kept securely and to prevent it being lost, stolen or misused. Steps should also be taken to delete personal data that is no longer needed.

Any data protection issues should be referred to data.protection@inmplc.com. The *Office of the Data Protection Commissioner* is responsible for upholding the privacy rights of individuals in relation to the processing of their personal *data*. *The equivalent body in the UK is the Information Commissioner's Office.*

39. The 'right to be forgotten'

The 'right to be forgotten' (also known as the 'right to erasure' under Section 17 of General Data Protection Regulation due to come into force across the European Union on 25 May 2018) is not a settled area of law applies only to internet search engines. Newspaper websites are under no obligation to delete a story if it is still accurate. However, discretion may be exercised in cases where deemed appropriate. All requests should be referred to the Group Managing Editor or Group Editor-in-Chief.

40. The public interest

The press has a right to freedom of expression and to impart and convey information freely. In many circumstances, the press will invoke the public interest as a reason for reporting. The public interest includes, but is not confined to:

- Detecting or exposing crime or serious impropriety
- Exposing significantly anti-social behaviour
- Exposing corruption or injustice
- Exposing significant incompetence or negligence
- Protecting public health and safety
- Preventing the public from being misled
- Disclosing information that assists people to better understand or make decisions on matters of public importance

There is also a public interest in freedom of expression in itself. Also, it should be noted that exceptional public interest will need to be shown in cases involving children.

Appendix 1

The Press Council of Ireland 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 a print and online news media 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 publications 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, print and online news media 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 Print and online news media are entitled to advocate strongly their 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 a publication 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 Print and online news media shall strive at all times for fair procedures and honesty in the procuring and publishing of news and information.

3.2 Publications 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

4.1 Everyone has constitutional protection for his or her good name. Print and online news media 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 a person holds public office, deals with public affairs, follows a public career, or has sought or obtained publicity for his activities, publication of relevant details of his private life and circumstances may be justifiable where the information revealed relates to the validity of the person's conduct, the credibility of his public statements, the value of his 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

Print and Online news media 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

Print and online news media 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 Print and online news media 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, print and online media 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.