

Ips0 annual statement

1.1

Print publications

Tameside Reporter

Glossop Chronicle

Online news publications

Tameside Reporter

Glossop Chronicle

Oldham Reporter

1.2

Name of publisher

Chris Bird, Executive Chairman, Quest Media Network Ltd,
Cavendish Mill, Bank Street, Ashton,-under-Lyne, OL6 7DN

Responsible person – Nigel Skinner, Editor.

1.3

Quest Media Network Ltd consists of two paid for weekly newspapers – the Tameside Reporter and Glossop Chronicle, the Online Oldham Reporter, plus Tameside Community Radio 103.6FM and all associated online services under the banner ‘Quest Media Network’ -

<https://www.questmedianetwork.co.uk/>.

The newspaper group has been serving the communities of Easter Manchester, Glossop and the High Peak for 166 years this month. The Tameside Reporter and Glossop Chronicle are two traditional weekly newspapers, which would now be classed ‘hyper local’.

3.1

Editorial Standards

We adhere strictly to the Editor’s Code and all journalists can reference

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/faqs/editors-code/>

Complaints handling

In the first instance the journalistic team would request any complainant to communicate via email, phone or write to the editor to explain the nature of the complaint. The editor would take steps to

resolve any complaints in the first instance. The complainant would be informed that we are members of IPSO and of relevant contacts. We display the IPSO mark in our publications and online.

Fact checking

Although we are a small team we have a very traditional subbing system with all stories going through two very highly experienced sub editors (one the editor) before going live / in print.

All reporters use notebooks / shorthand and keep their notes following interview.

We have not had cause in the last 12 months to seek legal advice or pre-publication advice from IPSO.

All online materials – stories, photographs, videos are archived.

All pages are proof read by members of the editorial team before going to press.

3.2 N/A - We have not had any cause to refer to IPSO in the last 12 months.

3.3 Training of staff

We have weekly editorial team meetings and update of training is discussed as required re online / social media and the IPSO guidelines are very useful in this.

However this will extend in the next 12 months as we have recruited two apprentice journalists.

Although fundamentally this is through Bauer and a radio journalistic training programme, training provided will be available to all of our team and we will be taking advantage of this.

Covid.

It has been a remarkable year. During lockdowns all but one or two of the editorial team have worked from home and we have stayed in touch via zoom meetings / email and phone to liaise each day to produce the news.

We have maintained regular 48 page newspaper publications and despite a decline in local advertising volume and revenue, have benefited from national government advertising through our jicreg / free distribution and a number of grants also.

We have provided weekly Covid news and updates while local news about how our communities have responded during the lockdowns will provide a vital historic reference for the future.

More than that our publications have helped galvanise and bring our communities together – our websites especially saw a dramatic growth in visitors -

<https://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/2020/news/shelved-weekly-will-not-return-in-print-until-next-year-publisher-says/>

VE Day saw everyone within our small team deliver a series of 75 stories throughout the day itself online, including videos and live Facebook feeds, coupled with veterans' memories and special publications in our weekly papers and on air on our radio station.

While we have concentrated on lifting spirits and delivering good news primarily – we have still challenged the crime levels/ raves / flytipping / car meets to reflect what has happened week in, week out – and reported responsibly the ravages of Covid.

Although one very positive highlight for our area has been the incredible vaccination programme – one of the best delivered by the health service being in our part of the country.

. The editorial team now consists of one editor, one sub editor, two news reporters (including one digital editor) and one sports reporter and we have recruited two apprentice journalists – a total of seven editorial staff.

For the future we are looking at the relaunch in print of the Oldham Reporter which became an online news service during the pandemic.