

ANNUAL IPSO STATEMENT FROM NUB NEWS

Introduction

Nub News is an independent, hyper-local online news publisher, launched in September 2018.

We have websites in more than 40 towns and suburbs across England and Wales. The titles are listed below.

We currently employ 30 staff, 26 of whom are journalists.

Nub News sites are edited by journalists who live and work in their towns. Their brief is to publish local news for local people.

The total online audience of our combined sites is circa one million unique users every month.

The company is led by co-founders Chief Executive Officer Karl Hancock and Chief Technology Officer Dean Waghorn.

I was appointed Editorial Director of Nub News in September 2021 and am the person responsible for liaison with IPSO. (mike.sassi@nub.news)

The current Nub News sites are:

Alsager.nub.news

Ashby.nub.news

Axminster.nub.news

Basildon.nub.news

Battersea.nub.news

Biddulph.nub.news

Brentford.nub.news

Bridport.nub.news

Burnhamanddengie.nub.news

Clapham.nub.news

Coalville.nub.news

Congleton.nub.news
Cowbridge.nub.news
Crewe.nub.news
Dorchester.nub.news
Dawlish.nub.news
Ealing.nub.news
Exmouth.nub.news
Falmouth.nub.news
Felixstowe.nub.news
Frome.nub.news
Glastonbury.nub.news
Heswall.nub.news
Helston.nub.news
Hitchin.nub.news
Honiton.nub.news
Hucknall.nub.news
Kenilworth.nub.news
Kingston.nub.news
Leek.nub.news
Letchworth.nub.news
Macclesfield.nub.news
Maldon.nub.news
Midsomernorton.nub.news
Oakham.nub.news
Penarth.nub.news
Radstock.nub.news
Richmond.nub.news
Sandbach.nub.news

Seaton.nub.news

Sheptonmallet.nub.news

Shotleypeninsula.nub.news

Sidmouth.nub.news

Swadlincote.nub.news

Teddington.nub.news

Thurrock.nub.news

Warwick.nub.news

Wells.nub.news

Editorial standards

All Nub News journalists adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice. Failure to do so could be a disciplinary issue.

We have a strong emphasis on accuracy and balance and our journalists check the facts of everything they publish before they publish it.

Our journalists maintain comprehensive notes or recordings of every conversation they have with contacts and sources.

I speak to the journalists every day to advise on legal and other issues. I also sub and rewrite copy, where required.

Our policy is to investigate and correct errors as soon as they are brought to our attention.

I would always seek guidance from IPSO if I were unsure of how to handle any specific complaint or other relevant issue.

There are several experienced journalists on the Nub News team, while others are recently graduated from university journalism courses.

Morning news conference calls are held at 9am every day – London sites on Monday; Cornwall, Devon and Dorset on Tuesday; South Wales, Somerset and Essex on Wednesday; Cheshire and Staffordshire on Thursday; and Leicestershire, Rutland and Warwickshire on Friday.

Weekly video conference calls involving all Nub News journalists are held every Monday afternoon.

These meetings provide a regular opportunity for me to give editorial guidance and for the journalists to share best-practice.

Our journalists also check and proof all copy submitted (Nubbed) by readers, before it is published.

The handling of complaints

We display the *IPSO Regulated* logo at the bottom of each of our site pages, accompanied by the following paragraph:

“Nub News is a member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (which regulates the UK’s magazine and newspaper industry). We abide by the Editors’ Code of Practice and are committed to upholding the highest standards of journalism. If you think that we have not met those standards and want to make a complaint, please click here to contact us. If we are unable to resolve your complaint, or if you would like more information about IPSO or the Editors’ Code, contact IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or visit www.ipso.co.uk”

We also include a link enabling readers to contact the site editor to make a complaint and another linking directly to IPSO.

An *About Us* link at the bottom of each page redirects readers to our corporate web site which prominently displays the Nub News postal address and contact telephone number.

It is company policy is to deal with all complaints promptly and professionally – and to make me (the Editorial Director) aware as soon as they are received.

The first response to any complaint is usually made via the site editor, after consultation with me.

If it is established that we have made a factual error we will publish a correction or clarification, taking a copy of the original story before we make changes.

If a complaint requires further investigation we may remove a story from publication, pending completion of our discussions.

Nub News always strives to reach agreement with complainants through dialogue.

The site editor retains correspondence relating to more serious complaints.

Training

The majority of our journalists are NCTJ-trained. Additional ad hoc training is provided as and when required.

Training has been carried out via webinars and conference calls, using outside consultants and experts.

Staff have also attended courses run by the BBC, the most recent being a week-long series of data journalism seminars.

The company intends to set up a formal training programme in the next 12 months.

Our record on compliance

One complaint against Nub News was upheld by the IPSO Complaints Committee during 2021.

The committee found Thurrock Nub News had breached Clause 1 (Accuracy) and Clause 2 (Privacy) of the Editors' Code.

Nub News journalists were all briefed about the adjudication and advised what might constitute a reasonable expectation of privacy, under the terms of the Editors' Code.

They were also instructed as to the importance of publishing an adequate correction after it is established we have made an error.

Our story about the adjudication, published on Thurrock Nub News, is here:

<https://thurrock.nub.news/n/ipso-upholds-complaint-against-thurrock-nub-news-by-refugee-that-story-and-picture-referring-to-his-status-and-hookah-smoking-activities-were-breaches-of-accuracy-and-privacy>

Mike Sassi

Editorial Director, Nub News

April 2022