



IPSO Annual Statement

Period 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022

1. Factual Information of Regulated Entity – DC Thomson & Co. Ltd

Company Number SC005830

Established 1905

Average monthly number of employees - c1,600

Turnover year to March 31 2022 - £156.3m

1.1 List of titles/products

Newspaper Titles	Consumer Magazine Titles	Children's Magazines & Comic Titles
Dundee Courier & Advertiser	Peoples Friend	Beano
Evening Telegraph	Peoples Friend Special	Commando Gold
The Sunday Post	Peoples Friend Pocket Novel	Commando Home of Heroes
Press & Journal	My Weekly	Commando Action & Adventure
Evening Express	My Weekly Special	Commando Silver
www.energyvoice.com	My Weekly Pocket Novel	Animals & You
www.thecourier.co.uk	Animals & You	Shout
www.pressandjournal.co.uk	The Scots Magazine	110% Gaming
www.eveningtelegraph.co.uk	This England/Annual	Jacqueline Wilson
www.eveningexpress.co.uk	Evergreen	
www.sundaypost.com	Platinum	www.beano.com
Sustainable Growth Voice	Bunkered	www.commandocomics.com
	UK Club Golfer	www.animalsandyou.co.uk
	www.peoplesfriend.co.uk	
	www.myweekly.co.uk	
	www.scotsmagazine.com	www.shoutmag.co.uk
	www.thisengland.co.uk	www.110gaming.com
	www.platinum-mag.co.uk	www.jw-mag.com
	www.bunkered.co.uk	Unicorn Universe
	www.ukclubgolfer.co.uk	Animal Planet
	UK Club Golfer	Animalplanetmagazine.com
	ukclubgolfer.co.uk	Beano and Dandy Gift Book
	Stylist magazine	Dandy Annual
	www.stylist.co.uk	Broons Annual
	Great British Food	Oor Wullie Annual
	Speciality Food*	
	What Franchise	
	Global Franchise	

	Teach Primary	
	Teach Early Years	
	Teach Secondary	
	Teach Specials	
	Head Teacher	
	Sew	
	Sew & Make Toys	
	Let's Knit	
	Let's Get Crafting	
	Knitting Crochet	
	Top Crochet Patterns	
	Crafts Beautiful	
	Papercrafter	
	100 Days of Christmas	
	Craft Club	
	Crafts Bookazines	
	Grow Your Own	
	Natural Health	
	Health & Wellbeing	
	Soul & Spirit	
	Your Easy Veg Garden	
	Live Green & Good	
	Our Family Garden	
	Veggie*	
	Fireside Annual (PF)	
	Friendship Book (PF)	

1.2 Regulated Entity's responsible person

Graham Huband – Managing Editor

Email: ghuband@dcthomson.co.uk

Phone: 01382 575318 / 07585969942

1.3 A brief overview of the nature of the Regulated Entity

The group's trading principal activities consist of the printing and publishing of newspapers, magazines, comics, books and annuals, events, local radio broadcasting, the online publishing of content including genealogy and newspaper archive records and the provision of data hosting and associated technological services.

2. Internal manuals, codes or guidance used by journalists

DC Thomson conducts all of its business in an honest and ethical manner and takes a zero tolerance approach to bribery and corruption.

All staff are expected to abide by the group's Code of Conduct and an extensive internal policy framework drawn up and regularly updated by HR, and which covers everything from responsible behaviour to travel and expenses and data protection.

Further details, if required, can be provided on request.

3. The compliance process, including how the Regulated Entity deals with:

3.1 Compliance with the Editors' Code of Practice

All editorial staff comply with both the Editors' Code of Practice, as administered by IPSO, and the DC Thomson Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is part of the terms and conditions of employment and breaches are dealt with under the company's disciplinary procedure.

The majority of complaints, and the correspondence that arises from them, are now held securely online on dedicated boards on the Trello platform. There are separate boards for newspaper and magazine complaints, but the process by which they are handled is now common.

Access to Trello is available through DC Thomson's protected internal computer network and complaints can be held indefinitely in a secure manner. The system allows all aspects of a complaint to be held in a single, searchable place and gives better oversight of the current status of individual cases.

For each complaint, the following information is captured as a routine.

- *Complainant name
- *Contact details
- *Date received
- *Date Closed (as and when applicable)
- *Online / Print or Both (publication)
- *Article URL
- *Reporter name
- *Action taken

The platform also allows for a narrative of a complaint to be held and updated and attachments - such as email correspondence, relevant images and PDF documentation - to be added.

There are four sub-headings under which a complaint may sit.

These are:

- * Under investigation
- * Escalated
- * Resolved - without action
- * Resolved - with action

Complaints in their initial stages are expected to be handled by the relevant news team leader. Editors will provide assistance where a regulatory or legal issue arises, or if a complaint becomes more complex and cannot immediately be resolved.

Complaints handling within magazines has been brought into line with newspapers and oversight and responsibility sits with Head of Magazines (Dundee) Maria Welch.

In line with IPSO guidelines, attempts are made to resolve issues directly with complainers in the first instance.

If no resolution can be found, then editors' signpost complainers directly to IPSO and can detail the service offered by the regulator.

All newspaper titles within the DC Thomson portfolio carry information about IPSO on their websites and in print.

The IPSO mark denoting a regulated entity is also published in every printed edition and on group news websites. The IPSO mark is also hosted on the group's main corporate website at www.dcthomson.co.uk

Our journalists are trained to industry standards and conduct fact-checking and source management as advocated in their professional training.

All staff raise legal concerns with senior editorial figures who have access to lawyers around the clock.

Pre-publication advice has been sought from IPSO on a regular basis concerning individual aspects of the Editors' Code of Conduct.

Copies of the Editors' Code of Practice are given to all editorial staff and IPSO updates are made available to senior managers who brief their teams as necessary.

Senior editors are also responsible whenever a Public Interest Defence to a complaint is considered or invoked.

A whistleblowing procedure is in place and is detailed in our internal Editorial Code of Conduct.

3.2 Upheld adjudications

There were no upheld adjudications against DC Thomson titles in the 2022 calendar year.

3.3 Training and engagement

The majority of staff have undergone e-learning – provided by PA - re the Editors' Code in previous years and new starts are expected to complete an online module at the beginning of their employment.

The nature of the eLearning modules is about awareness of the Code requirements and how and what to do.

Individual title editors also regularly remind senior staff of relevant IPSO case studies, prompting discussion and debate over the complaints and resolutions involved.

During the course of the year, IPSO was invited to facilitate overview sessions about the regulator's role and the Code of Practice to DC Thomson newsrooms.

In November 2022, more than 100 journalists across the Dundee and Aberdeen newspaper titles joined a workshop and Q&A session with IPSO head of standards and regulation, Jane Debois, and her colleague, engagement officer Dr Beth Kitson.

The hour-long session covered

- IPSO's functions and role, and an overview of the Editors' Code of Practice
- Specific clauses of the Code such as Accuracy (Clause 1) - the single most complained about clause - Clause 2 (Privacy); Clause 5 (Reporting Suicide); and Clause 6 (Children).

A similar session was held with magazine colleagues.

3.4 Engagement

DC Thomson also regularly engaged with IPSO during the year, including hosting chief executive Charlotte Dewar and chairman Lord Faulks at the company's headquarters at Meadowside, Dundee, on April 28, 2022, during their tour of Scottish newsrooms.

Managing Editor Graham Huband travelled to London on May 26 to spend a day at IPSO headquarters during which he met with members of the senior team and was given an overview of the complaints handling system which the regulator oversees.

Additionally, Graham Huband and Press and Journal Assistant Editor, Joe Churcher, were invited to give input to Sir Bill Jeffrey's external review of IPSO. The session took place on January 12, 2023.

3.5 Details of steps taken by the Regulated Entity in response to any adverse adjudication by the Regulator during the previous year.

There were no adverse judgements in the period.

Graham Huband

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Graham Huband
Managing Editor
DC Thomson