

## **IPSO annual statement for National World Publishing Ltd: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**

### 1 Factual information about the Regulated Entity

#### 1.1 A list of its titles/products.

Attached on separate spreadsheet

#### 1.2 The name of the Regulated Entity's responsible person.

Gary Shipton, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of National World and Editorial Director of its titles in the South of England, is the responsible person for the company.

#### 1.3 A brief overview of the nature of the Regulated Entity.

The regulated entity National World is a national and regional multimedia organisation in the UK. Its national brands are The Scotsman (Scotland), The News Letter (Northern Ireland) and [nationalworld.com](https://www.nationalworld.com). We provide news and information services to the communities we serve through our portfolio of publications and websites.

In 2023, National World acquired:

- The Newry Reporter (January 2023)
- The Banbridge Chronicle (February 2023)
- Farm Week (March 2023)
- Insider Media Ltd (May 2023)
- Rotherham Advertiser (May 2023)
- Midland News Association Ltd (September 2023)

We continue to set the highest editorial standards by ensuring that our staff are provided with excellent internally developed training resources. The Editors' Code of Practice is embedded in every part of our editorial operations and we commit absolutely to the principles expounded by IPSO.

We welcome and embrace the specific initiatives taken forward by IPSO in 2023:

- Published guidance for journalists and editors on the reporting of suicide, in addition to a public information leaflet on the topic.

- Revised guidance for journalists and editors on reporting of sex and gender identity following a four-week public consultation.
- Launched revised information for survivors of sexual offences, and guidance for journalists on the reporting of sexual offences.

National World continues to operate an internal Editorial Governance Committee with the key remit to consider, draft, implement and review the policies, procedures and training for the whole Group to ensure compliance with its obligations under IPSO.

2 Copies of any internal manuals, codes or guidance used by journalists

Below

3. Brief details of the compliance process

Our training process

The Editors' Code is the standard used throughout the Group. Our staff undergo training to ensure they fully understand the Editors' Code and know how to apply the Code in real-life settings when seeking and drafting editorial content and dealing with any issues that may subsequently arise.

Updates to the Editors' Code and supporting Codebook along with any guidance issued is communicated to all members of staff. This communication takes place through National World's Editorial Learning and Development Department and is reinforced by the Editorial Directors and Editors in their regular briefings to their teams.

The Editorial Learning and Development Department provides an online training programme which tests staff on a range of scenarios which touch on various aspects of the Code and this module has been updated to reflect the more recent changes in the Editors' Code.

The Editors' Code is made available to new trainees joining National World and trainees are also put through the National Qualification in Journalism run by the National Council for the Training of Journalists. This includes training in ethical issues which is tested in the Media Law and Practice exam.

It is a condition of employment of all editorial staff, contained within their contracts, that they fully observe the standards required by IPSO as explained

within the Code. It is also a condition of commissioned freelance contributors that they fully comply with the Code. This is also made clear through the induction process for all new editorial employees.

Law and ethics refreshers are an integral part of the National World training programme and the Editorial Learning and Development website includes material on ethical issues as well as the IPSO Code and National World complaints procedures.

Pre-publication guidance is provided in the first instance internally by the Deputy Editor-in-Chief and the Legal Director. All Editors have been informed of the IPSO contacts for which pre-publication advice should be sought. National World has a robust editorial management structure which ensures that whenever a story might require verification it is fully assessed but responsibility for the tone and content of every title remains with the Editor.

#### Our record on compliance

Whenever there is an adverse adjudication against a National World publication, it is referred to National World's Editorial Governance Committee. The Committee examines the censure in the context of other adjudications and then initiates a full investigation. The investigation identifies the failings and the steps needed to ensure no repetition locally or across the Group.

These recommendations can include training requirements and potential changes to National World's editorial policies and procedures.

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

The following was the one upheld complaint published on IPSO's website in 2023.

#### **11886-22 A woman v [lep.co.uk](https://www.lep.co.uk)**

A woman complained to the Independent Press Standards Organisation that [lep.co.uk](https://www.lep.co.uk) breached Clause 2 (Privacy) and Clause 6 (Children) of the Editors' Code of Practice in an article published in October 2022.

The article – which appeared online only – was a court round up of individuals who had been “convicted of crimes by local magistrates” at Preston Magistrates Court. The name of the complainant’s child was included in the article as an accomplice to another individual’s crime.

The complainant said that the article breached Clause 6, as it had identified her son – a child aged 15 at the time of the article’s publication – as an accomplice in a formal criminal charge made against an individual. The complainant said that court reporting restrictions had been in place banning publication of her son’s name. She said this had caused significant distress to her son and her wider family, and that identifying him would mean that his peers would be aware of his crime; this, she said, could lead to further social isolation and harassment. The complainant also said the article had breached Clause 2, as she considered that the article had intruded into her son’s private life and had breached both his and his family’s human rights.

The publication did not accept a breach of Clause 2 or Clause 6. It said it had not been aware of the child’s age at the time of publication, and that the official court register, a privileged document, which had listed the child’s name as an accomplice did not refer to any reporting restrictions in place. Therefore, it said it did not accept a breach of Clause 2 as the material had been put in the public domain by the court authorities.

The complaint was upheld under Clause 2 and Clause 6. The Committee recognised that the court register was a large document and that no reporting restriction had been indicated in the entry relating to the charges that were the subject of the article. It also noted that once the publication had become aware of the named individual’s age, it removed the reference promptly. However, the register had noted the complainant’s son’s age and the existence of reporting restrictions preventing his identification, 13 pages later in the document. While the Committee understood the publication’s position that it had only reported on certain areas within the listed report and therefore had not seen this detail, it had access to this information at the time of publication.

National World’s governance committee held a full review of the adjudication. Court documents such as this are issued to the press to enable these cases to be reported. They are privileged and trusted sources of information and the expectation is that any reporting restrictions will be made clear. Due to the length of the document, the frequency of new releases, and the wide geographic area covered by it - beyond the circulation of the publication - automated tools are used to highlight only those cases relevant to the circulation area. In this case, the reference 13 pages’ later was not seen by the journalist as it related to a case outside that designated geographic zone. However, the governance committee stressed the need for journalists to take all reasonable care to ensure that every effort is made to prevent a repeat. We will continue to review our procedures.

## National World Editorial Complaints Policy (External)

National World is committed to upholding standards in editorial quality and content and acting in compliance with our regulatory guidelines and obligations.

We take all complaints about editorial content very seriously and seek to accordingly abide by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (“IPSO”) requirements and the Editors’ Code of Practice (“the Code”).

What does this policy cover?

This policy applies to complaints about breaches of the Code and any other complaint in editorial content in our printed publications or on electronic services such as websites and apps, including text, pictures, video, audio/visual and interactive content, and which are either published or targeted at an audience in the UK. It does not cover:

- complaints about advertising (as that is regulated by the Advertising Standards Authority);
- complaints about online material on sites which we do not own and which are not under our control;
- at our discretion, legal or contractual matters which are dealt with more appropriately in the courts or tribunals or elsewhere.

How to complain

Complaints should be made in writing, either by email to the Editor identified on the website of the publication to which the complaint relates or by post to the address of the relevant publication and addressed in the first instance to the Editor.

In line with IPSO's policies, complaints about the Editors' Code will only be accepted within four months from the date of the behaviour complained of or first publication of the article that you are complaining about. If at the time you submit your complaint, the article remains accessible on a website or other electronic service operated by us however, complaints may be accepted up to 12 months from the date of the behaviour or first publication of the article you are complaining about, provided it is still possible to investigate the complaint fairly given the period of time which has elapsed. National World shall have sole discretion in determining this.

Complaints about the Editors' Code must include:

- a copy of the article in question, or a link to the relevant webpage or a web address, if the complaint is about published material (or reference to the publication title, issue date, page and article title if a copy is unavailable);
- a written explanation of your concerns with reference to the Editors' Code;
- any other documents that will help us assess your complaint.

Complaints received without this essential information cannot be considered. We may however, at our discretion, seek further details from you after your initial contact. If you cannot provide any requested information we may be unable to consider your complaint.

We reserve the right to reject, without further investigation, complaints that show no breach of the Editors' Code, or those which are vexatious and/or disproportionate, or those which are without justification (such as an attempt to argue a point of view or to lobby).

We may also decline to consider complaints from third parties not directly affected by the alleged breach of the Editors' Code. When considering whether to accept such a complaint, the position of the party most closely involved in the matter will be taken into account.

What happens to your complaint?

The complaints process is free of charge irrespective of the outcome of your complaint

We aim to acknowledge receipt of your complaint within 5 working days of receipt. You in turn agree to respond promptly to any request for further information.

If we receive multiple complaints about the same issue we may choose to make one response to all such complaints.

We will aim to respond to complaints in writing within 7 working days of receiving everything we need from you to allow us to investigate your complaint.

We will always treat you courteously and with respect. We expect the same from

you. We may decline to consider a complaint which is abusive or gratuitously offensive.

### Appeals process

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your original complaint you have the right to appeal the decision by notifying the Editor, in writing, within 7 working days of receipt of the letter notifying you of the outcome.

Upon receipt of such appeal letter, the Editor shall forward this for consideration to the Deputy Editor-in-Chief where appropriate, who will then aim to assess the appeal within 7 working days of receipt of such notification. After that you will be issued a letter confirming whether your appeal has been upheld or partially upheld and whether any actions will accordingly be taken.

For the avoidance of doubt, you will have no further right of appeal with the company following the determination of this appeals process. However, you may look to exercise your right to take the matter to IPSO.

### Complaint to IPSO on exhaustion of our complaints procedure

If you are unhappy with our final response to your complaint you may complain to IPSO for consideration. Further details can be found at <http://www.ipso.co.uk>.

### Policy Changes

We reserve the right to amend this policy as and when required.

Any complaint will be considered against the published policy on the date of receipt of your complaint.

Editorial complaints that do not relate to the Editors' Code will be considered to the same principles although the time scales for consideration will be subject to legal limitations where a civil claim is made.

<b>National World Titles</b>				
<b>Parent Title/Main Edition</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>Edition</b>
Banbury Guardian				
Bucks Herald				
Biggleswade Chronicle				
Boston Standard				
Bedford Times & Citizen				
Bucks & Winslow Advertiser				
Buxton Advertiser				
Chronicle & Echo				
Derbyshire Times				
Daventry Express				
Eastwood & Kimberley Advertiser				
Peterborough Telegraph				
Gainsborough Standard				
Hucknall Dispatch				
Hemel Gazette				
Horncastle News				
Leamington Spa Courier				
Leighton Buzzard Observer				
Louth Leader				
Luton News				
Mansfield Chad	Ashfield Chad			
Harborough Mail				
Milton Keynes Citizen				
Matlock Mercury				
Market Rasen Mail				
Melton Times				
Northants Telegraph	Corby Telegraph			
Rugby Advertiser				
Skegness Standard				
Sleaford Standard				
Worksop Guardian				
Berwickshire News				
The Buchanie				
Cumbernauld News & Kilsyth Chronicle				
Deeside Piper				
East Fife Mail				
Edinburgh Evening News				
Ellon Times & Inverurie Herald				
Angus County Press				
Fife Free Press				
Falkirk Herald				



Fraserburgh Herald				
Fife Herald	St. Andrews Citizen			
Glenrothes Gazette				
Kirkintilloch Herald & Bishopbriggs Herald				
Lanark Gazette & Carluke Gazette				
Linlithgow Gazette	Boness Journal	Queensferry Gazette		
Midlothian Advertiser				
Milngavie & Bearsden Herald				
Mearns Leader & Kincardineshire Observer				
Motherwell Times & Bellshill Speaker				
Stornoway Gazette				
Southern Reporter				
Scotland on Sunday				
Scotsman				
Berwick Advertiser				
Hartlepool Mail				
Morpeth Herald				
News Post Leader				
Northumberland Gazette				
Shields Gazette				
Sunderland Echo				
Clitheroe Advertiser				
Chorley Guardian				
Blackpool Evening Gazette				
Fleetwood Weekly News				
Burnley Express Friday - Burnley				
Garstang Courier				
Lytham St. Annes Express				
Lancaster Guardian				
Lancashire Evening Post				
Morecambe Visitor				
Nelson Leader - Nelson				
Wigan Observer				
Wigan Post Weekly				
Crawley Observer				
West Sussex County Times				
Eastbourne & Hailsham Herald				
Hastings, St Leonards & Rye Observer	Bexhill & Battle Observer			
Mid Sussex Times				
Portsmouth News				

Sussex Express - Lewes	Sussex Express - Uckfield	Sussex Express - Seaford	Sussex Express - Hailsham	
Chichester Observer	Bognor Regis Observer	Midhurst & Petworth Observer		
West Sussex Gazette				
Littlehampton Gazette				
Worthing Herald				
Coleraine & Ballymoney Times				
Banbridge Chronicle				
Derry Journal Friday				
Derry Journal Tuesday				
Farm Week				
Lurgan Mail				
Londonderry Sentinel				
Larne Times	Carrick Times	Newtownabbey Times		
Mid Ulster Mail				
Newry Reporter				
Newsletter - Ulster				
Portadown Times				
Ulster Star				
Brighouse Echo				
Doncaster Free Press				
Dewsbury Reporter	Batley News	Spenborough Guardian		
Halifax Courier				
Scarborough News				
Yorkshire Evening Post				
Bridlington Free Press				
Harrogate Advertiser	Knaresborough Post	Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale Herald	Ripon Gazette	Wetherby News
Pontefract & Castleford Express				
Pocklington Post				
Sheffield Star				
Sheffield Telegraph				
Todmorden News				
Wakefield Express				
Whitby Gazette				
Yorkshire Post - Main Edition				
Rotherham Advertiser				
Dearne Valley Weekender				
Express & Star - West Edition	Express & Star - East Edition			
Shropshire Star - County Edition	Shropshire Star - East Edition			
Cannock Chronicle	Dudley & Stourbridge Chronicle	Wolverhampton Chronicle	Walsall Chronicle	Sandwell & Halesowen Chronicle

Shrewsbury Chronicle				
Telford Journal				
South Shropshire Journal	Mid Wales Journal			
Bridgnorth Journal				
Newport Advertiser	Market Drayton Advertiser			
Farmer				
Shropshire Magazine				

## National World Digital Titles

### Digital site

- 3addedminutes.com
- anguscountyworld.co.uk
- banburyguardian.co.uk
- bedfordtoday.co.uk
- biggleswadetoday.co.uk
- birminghamworld.uk
- blackpoolgazette.co.uk
- bristolworld.com
- bucksherald.co.uk
- burnleyexpress.net
- buxtonadvertiser.co.uk
- chad.co.uk
- daventryexpress.co.uk
- derbyshiretimes.co.uk
- derryjournal.com
- dewsburyreporter.co.uk
- doncasterfreepress.co.uk
- edinburghnews.scotsman.com
- falkirkherald.co.uk
- farminglife.com
- fifetoday.co.uk
- gallowaygazette.co.uk
- glasgowworld.com
- halifaxcourier.co.uk
- harboroughmail.co.uk
- harrogateadvertiser.co.uk
- hartlepoolmail.co.uk
- hemeltoday.co.uk
- hucknalldispatch.co.uk
- lancasterguardian.co.uk
- leightonbuzzardonline.co.uk
- lep.co.uk
- lincolnshireworld.com
- liverpoolworld.uk
- londonworld.com

- [lutontoday.co.uk](http://lutontoday.co.uk)
- [manchesterworld.uk](http://manchesterworld.uk)
- [meltontimes.co.uk](http://meltontimes.co.uk)
- [miltonkeynes.co.uk](http://miltonkeynes.co.uk)
- [nationalworld.com](http://nationalworld.com)
- [newcastleworld.com](http://newcastleworld.com)
- [newschainonline.com](http://newschainonline.com)
- [newsletter.co.uk](http://newsletter.co.uk)
- [northamptonchron.co.uk](http://northamptonchron.co.uk)
- [northantstelegraph.co.uk](http://northantstelegraph.co.uk)
- [northernirelandworld.com](http://northernirelandworld.com)
- [northumberlandgazette.co.uk](http://northumberlandgazette.co.uk)
- [nottinghamworld.com](http://nottinghamworld.com)
- [peopleworld.co.uk](http://peopleworld.co.uk)
- [peterboroughtoday.co.uk](http://peterboroughtoday.co.uk)
- [portsmouth.co.uk](http://portsmouth.co.uk)
- [rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk](http://rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk)
- [scotsman.com](http://scotsman.com)
- [shieldsgazette.com](http://shieldsgazette.com)
- [stornowaygazette.co.uk](http://stornowaygazette.co.uk)
- [sunderlandecho.com](http://sunderlandecho.com)
- [sussexexpress.co.uk](http://sussexexpress.co.uk)
- [thescarboroughnews.co.uk](http://thescarboroughnews.co.uk)
- [thesouthernreporter.co.uk](http://thesouthernreporter.co.uk)
- [thestar.co.uk](http://thestar.co.uk)
- [wakefieldexpress.co.uk](http://wakefieldexpress.co.uk)
- [warwickshireworld.com](http://warwickshireworld.com)
- [wiganoday.net](http://wiganoday.net)
- [worksopguardian.co.uk](http://worksopguardian.co.uk)
- [worldofwomenssport.com](http://worldofwomenssport.com)
- [yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk](http://yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk)
- [yorkshirepost.co.uk](http://yorkshirepost.co.uk)

## INSIDER Media

<b>Print magazine</b>	<b>Website</b>
-	<a href="http://insidermedia.com">insidermedia.com</a>
Midlands Business Insider	
North East Business Insider	
Yorkshire Business Insider	
South West Business Insider	
Wales Business Insider	
South East Business Insider	