

The Spectator annual statement 2023

I.

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3. In July 1828, R.S. Rintoul, the founding editor of *The Spectator*, announced a new weekly:–

‘Our Plan is entirely new, comprising – 1. The whole News of the Week: selected, sifted, condensed and arranged as to be readable throughout. 2. A full and impartial exhibition of all the leading Politics of the Day. 3. A separate Discussion of Interesting Topics of a general nature, with a view to instruction and entertainment at the same time. 4. A Department devoted to Literatures... 5. Dramatic and Musical Criticism. 6. Scientific and Miscellaneous information.’

Our magazine, website, podcasts and videos continue to follow his formula.

In 2023, audited circulation of *The Spectator* averaged 107,812 copies. Over a decade in which sales of consumer magazines fell by two-thirds, our sales doubled.

2.

We do not have internal manuals; we use the Editors’ Code of Practice.

3.

1. **Complaints handling:** Our contact details are available [online](#) and our membership of Ipso is noted at the top of the ‘About *The Spectator*’ [page](#) on our website.

We try to respond quickly to all reasonable complaints we receive and resolve them amicably. One member of the editorial team – usually the editor who handled the piece or a fact-checker – takes responsibility for each complaint. We review the complaint to see if it is reasonable and

correct factual errors as soon as they are brought to our attention. We correspond with complainants, letting them know if we have acted on their complaint or not.

Fact-checking of stories: Articles in the print magazine are approved by a lawyer, sub-editor and editor before being sent to press. Features and columns are reviewed by fact-checkers who seek to verify information against primary, authoritative sources.

Our online editors decide whether articles to be published on the website require legal checking and all of our online articles are checked by at least one editor before publication. Editors frequently check details themselves, with authors and our fact-checkers.

We have not had to seek pre-publication guidance from Ipso, and do not envisage having to do so.

Guidance and information: We distribute the guidance we receive from Ipso (and changes to the Editors' Code) to all relevant editorial staff.

2. **Our record on compliance:** Where we have not been able to resolve complaints through mediation and receive an adverse finding from the Complaints Committee, we have been happy to carry out the remedial action and will do so as long as it is reasonable.

In 2023, the Complaints Committee considered one complaint against *The Spectator* and one against *spectator.co.uk*. In both cases, the Committee found no breach of the Editors' Code.

3. **Our training process:** The small size of our editorial team means that we are all aware of complaints and adjudications, which we discuss in twice-weekly editorial conferences, and senior staff are always on hand to offer advice on issues as they arise. And of course, as with every member of Britain's free press, our standards are set and upheld by our readers, who have the highest expectations for argument and accuracy.