

The Lead IPSO Annual Statement 2024

Introduction

The Lead is a private limited company that seeks to provide news and commentary about health, inequality, politics, injustice, climate and more via thelead.uk and national.thelead.uk and its associated social media channels. We publish in-depth news and features.

We launched in November 2022 and have grown to a readership of more than 300,000 views per month, with a number of local titles operating across the North of England alongside our national edition. Our national newsletter goes out to nearly 50,000 subscribers three-times-a-week. In 2024 we printed more than 300,000 free local newspapers across the North of England.

Our responsible person is Editor, Ed Walker, who can be reached on ed@thelead.uk

Editorial standards

We abide by the Editors' Code of Practice and are committed to upholding the highest standards of journalism.

We aim to ensure our articles are balanced and trustworthy by verifying details and contacting all relevant parties. Should anyone decline to comment, we include that information in the article.

If readers think that we have not met the expected standards and want to make a complaint, they are asked to contact the Editor via email.

If we are unable to resolve a complaint, or if readers would like more information about IPSO or the Editors' Code, we ask them to contact IPSO.

We publish this information about complaints and display our IPSO membership in the website footer. We also have a dedicated complaints page and procedure published <https://thelead.uk/editorial-complaints>

Any complaints received are acted upon swiftly, for example through the addition of a comment or the correction of factual errors.

Should complaints require further investigation we can remove articles from publication during that time.

Record on compliance

We have not had any complaints referred to IPSO in 2024.

Training process

We have a range of contributors, and many of them have undertaken journalism courses at various institutions that cover media law training as standard.

Two of our co-editors, Ed Walker and Luke Beardsworth, have extensive experience previously at Reach PLC where they regularly undertook legal training refreshers and worked with the IPSO code.

Natalie Morris, our National editor, has nearly a decade of extensive experience as a freelance journalist and editor with The Guardian amongst other publications.

Any changes to the IPSO code will be communicated to our contributors.