

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



PRESS COUNCIL
OF IRELAND



OFFICE OF
THE PRESS
OMBUDSMAN

The Press Council of Ireland and the Office of the Press Ombudsman exist to safeguard and promote professional and ethical standards in Irish newspapers, magazines and online news publications.

Used throughout this Report are photographs taken by members of the Press Photographers Association of Ireland that featured in the 2022 Press Photographer of the Year Awards.

We are grateful to the members of the PPAI for allowing us continued permission to reproduce these images in our Annual Report.

COVER: First of Many by Marc O'Sullivan

A mass vaccination centre pictured being set up by the HSE at DCU Dublin.

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Introduction

PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

The Press Council of Ireland is responsible for the oversight of the professional principles embodied in the Press Council's Code of Practice, and with upholding the freedom of the press. It operates with the support and cooperation of member publications and journalists. It decides on appeals from decisions of the Press Ombudsman and on complaints referred to it directly by the Press Ombudsman. It is independent of both government and media.

OFFICE OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Press Ombudsman receives complaints from members of the public and seeks to resolve them by conciliation or mediation to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. Where conciliation or mediation is not possible, the Press Ombudsman will make a decision on the complaint based on the Code of Practice.

Chairman's Report



Seán Donlon - Chairman

This is my last Chairman's Report. My two terms as Chairman ended on 31 March 2022 and I wish my successor, Rory Montgomery, every success in his role as Chairman.

In my six years as Chairman, the Office of the Press Ombudsman has received over 2,000 complaints. Complaints are initially considered by the Case Officer through the Press Ombudsman's conciliation service. In the event that it is not possible to

resolve a complaint through conciliation it is referred to the Press Ombudsman for a decision. If either the complainant or the publication is unhappy with his decision an appeal can be submitted to the full Press Council. Conciliation takes approximately four weeks, if the complaint goes to the Press Ombudsman it takes a further two weeks, and if the case goes to appeal a further four weeks approximately. The complaints process is completed speedily and at no cost to the complainant.

In all cases the publications cooperated fully and there was no attempt from any quarter to interfere with our independence or our established procedures. Decisions of the Press Ombudsman and the Press Council were in all cases published, as required, by relevant publications.

All appointments to the Council involved an independent Appointments Committee and I am grateful to the members of that Committee - Bride

Rosney, Frances Ruane and Dermot McCarthy - who ensured that the membership of the Council was at all times reflective of a broad spectrum of civic society.

Of the 13 members of the Council, six are drawn from the press industry and seven are independent public interest members who are independent of the interests of media owners, publishers and journalists. I acknowledge and pay tribute to all my colleagues on the Council. Each has brought his/her experience and background to the work of the Council and have been an effective team in their role on the Council. I pay particular tribute to the Deputy Chairperson Patricia O'Donovan, who in addition to her membership of the Council, also chaired the Administrative Committee.

It is now 14 years since the office of the Press Ombudsman and the Press Council was set up and it is

clear that their roles, independent of Government and the press, has now been well established and publicly accepted. All national newspapers published in Ireland, most local newspapers, many magazines and most of the major online-only news publications are members of the Council and subscribe to a Code of Practice which is kept under review by

a Code Committee in consultation with the Council.

I am pleased to welcome the recent publication by the Minister for Justice of the long overdue review of the 2009 Defamation Act. It confirmed the value of the Press Council and its role in ensuring a free and fair press in Ireland. It has recommended measures in regard to mediation, alternative

dispute resolution, extension of the remit of the Council and a requirement of solicitors to make their clients aware of the services of the Press Ombudsman and Council. Implementation of these and other recommendations would strengthen and enhance our contribution to the maintenance of a free press. It is hoped that the Government and the Oireachtas will

now move quickly to consider and pass the appropriate legislation.

The effectiveness of our work owes much to our dedicated staff members, the Press Ombudsman Peter Feeney and the Case Officer, Bernie Grogan. I acknowledge in particular the flexibility they showed to keep all systems working during the restrictions on working caused by Covid-19.



Watching by Marc O'Sullivan

A child stares at a drone at a drive-in cinema screening at Leopardstown, Dublin.

Complaints

TOTAL 527

31 **DECIDED BY PRESS OMBUDSMAN**

19 **COMPLAINT RESOLVED BY THE EDITOR TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMPLAINANT**

9 **LIVE AT END 2021**

11 **UNAUTHORISED THIRD PARTY**

These were complainants who were not personally affected by an article, or who complained about an article written about another person, but without that person's permission to make a complaint.

14 **USER GENERATED CONTENT/ SOCIAL MEDIA**

84 **OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

These were mostly for the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland or the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland.

16 **OUT OF TIME**

These were complaints that were received outside the three-month deadline for making a complaint.

30 **PUBLICATION NOT MEMBER OF PRESS COUNCIL**

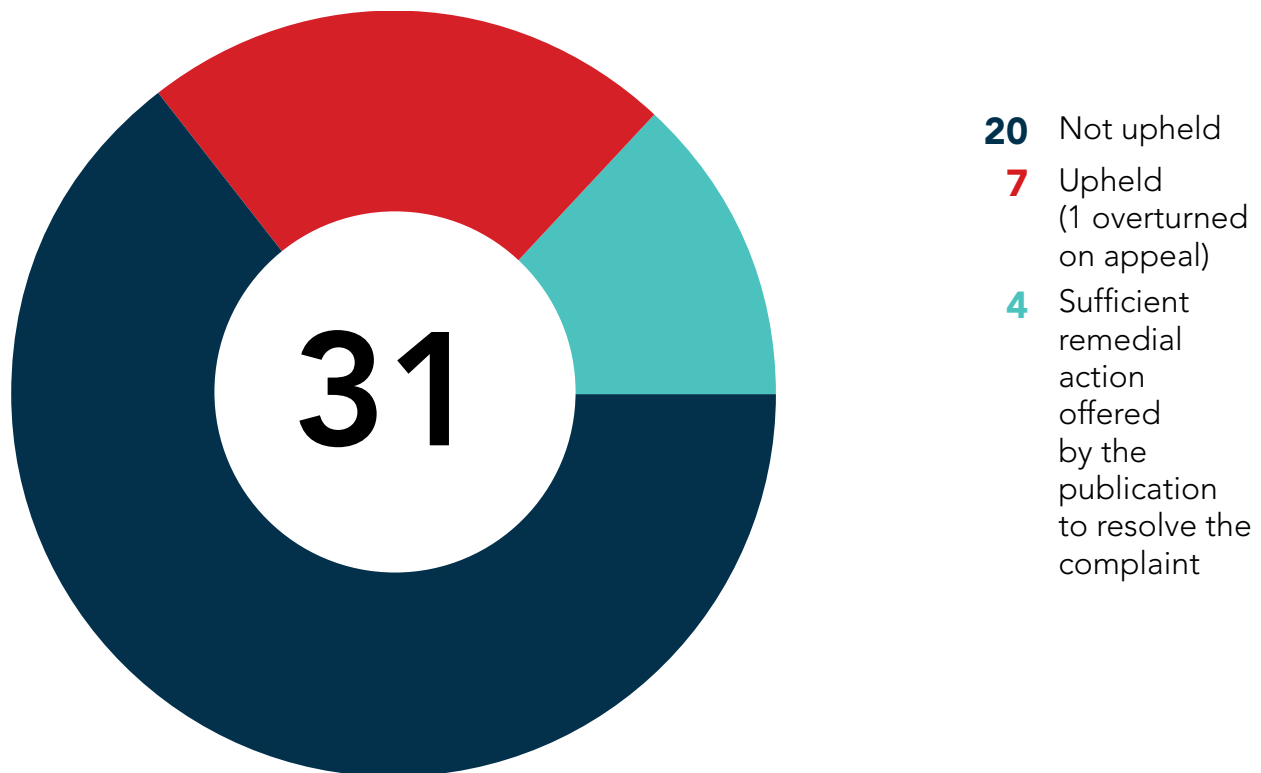
5 **CLOSED/WITHDRAWN**

53 **MISCELLANEOUS**

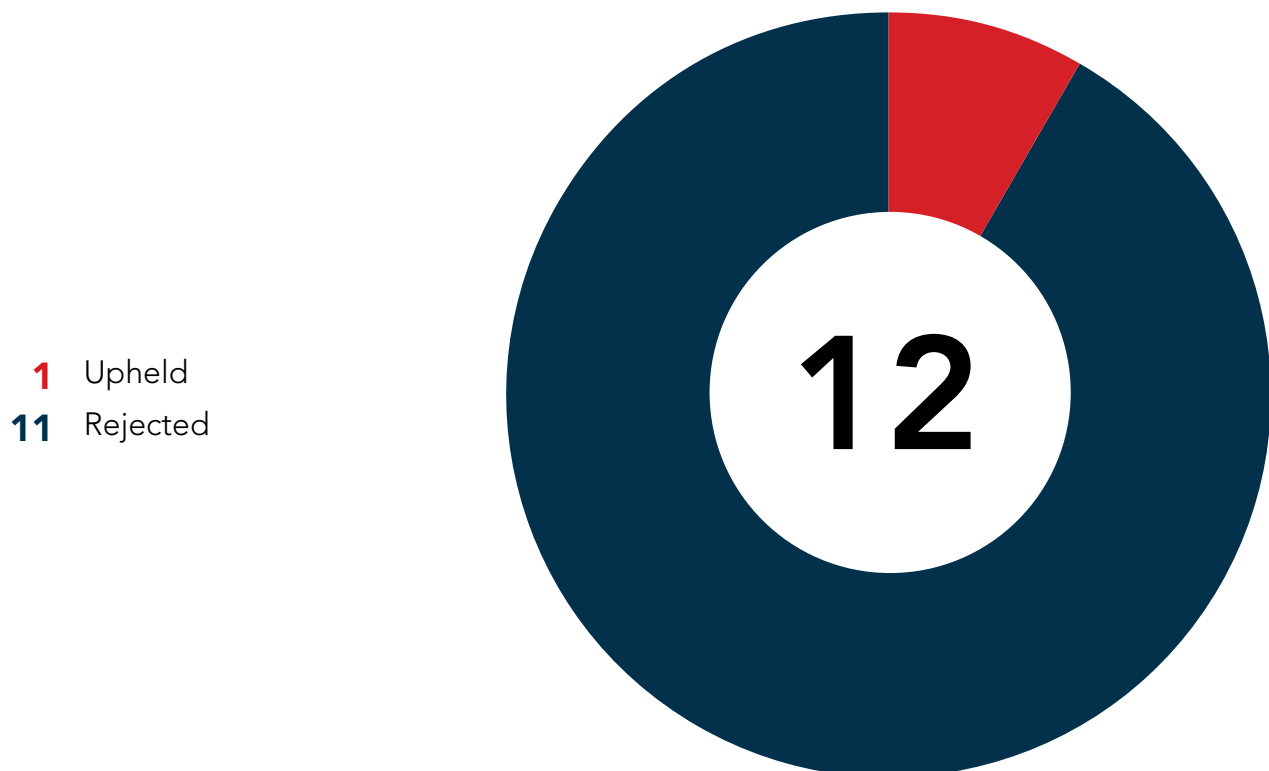
255 **COMPLAINT NOT PURSUED BEYOND PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY BY COMPLAINANT**

Some of these complaints were multiple complaints about the same article. Others were where the complainant was given the contact details for the publisher, together with advice on the Code of Practice and how to make a complaint, but decided not to pursue the matter further with the Office after the initial contact. Some of these complaints may subsequently have been satisfactorily resolved following the submission of the complaint directly to the editor of the publication concerned.

Complaints decided by the Press Ombudsman

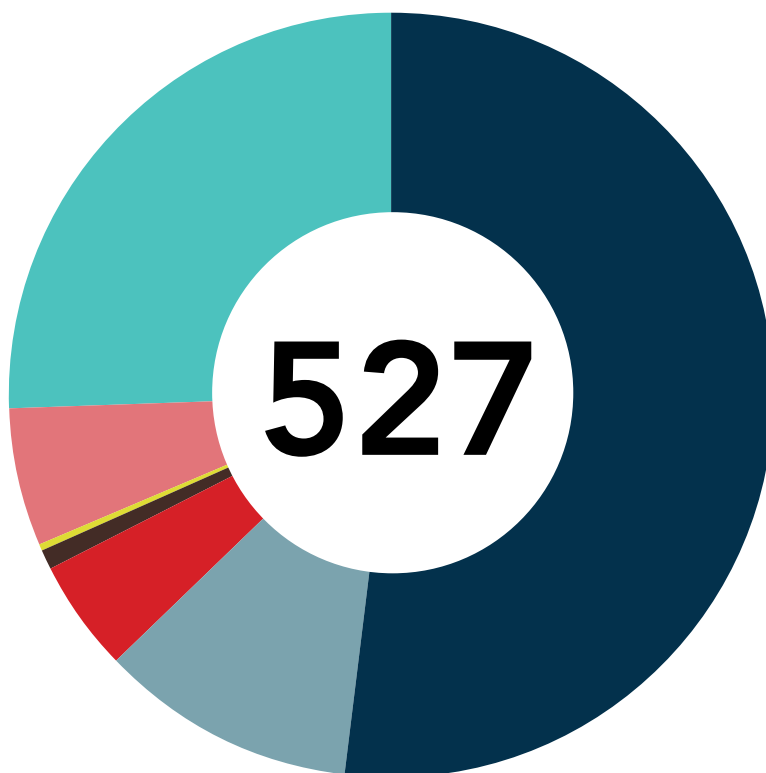


Appeals considered by the Press Council

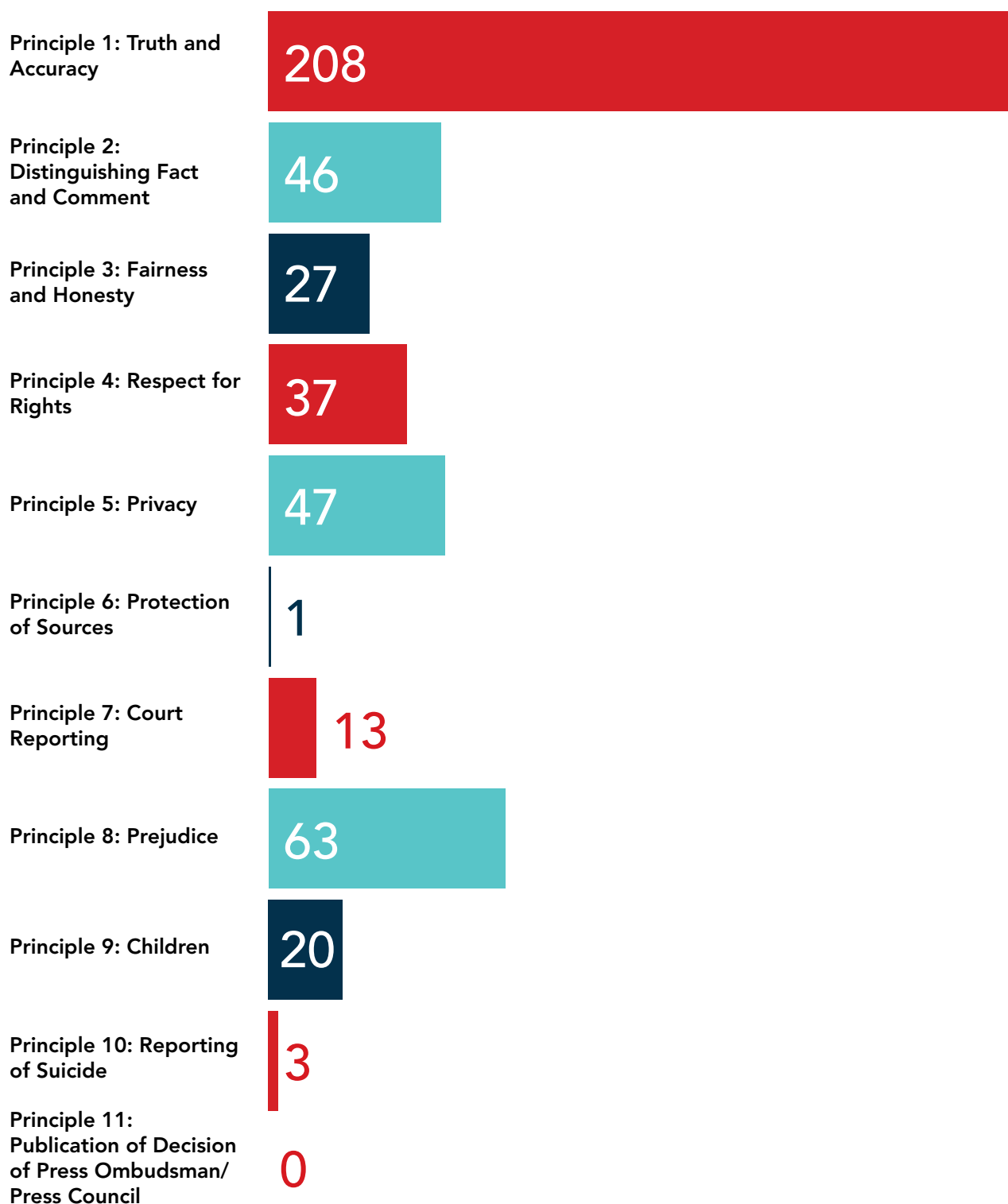


Publication leading to complaint:

- 275** National newspaper (print and online)
- 57** Online-only news publication
- 25** Local newspaper (print and online)
- 4** Student publication
- 2** Magazine
- 30** Publication not member of Press Council
- 134** Not indicated by complainant



Principles of the Code of Practice cited by complainants*



* Complainants often cite a breach of more than one Principle of the Code of Practice in their complaints. The full text of the Code of Practice is published on pages 28 and 29.



Doolin Sunset by John C Kelly

The sun sets on a February evening at Doolin, Co. Clare.

Press Ombudsman's Report



Peter Feeney - Press Ombudsman

because of a positive test for Covid-19 of a Garda witness. The Garda was named and his photograph included. The complaint was upheld on the basis of the publication of private medical information without consent.

The decision of the Press Ombudsman was appealed successfully by Kerry's Eye. See page 17 for the outcome of the appeal.

The number of complaints received by the Office of the Press Ombudsman in 2021 was 527. This is an increase of more than 50% on the previous year when 347 complaints were received. This increase can be attributed to two factors, firstly, the number of complaints that referred to the reporting of issues relating to Covid-19 was approximately 200, secondly, 50 complaints related to just 3 articles. The

increase in the number of complaints that had to be processed put a strain on our resources, but I am pleased to say that all complaints were completed within the target timeframes we set ourselves. These targets were met despite the additional constraints of remote working under Government pandemic guidelines. The Press Ombudsman issued formal decisions in 31 complaints, 7 of these complaints were upheld (that is the same number of upheld

complaints as in the previous year). Four of the upheld complaints referred to Covid-19 related reporting.

The 7 complaints upheld by the Press Ombudsman in 2021 were as follows:

Tony Sugrue and Kerry's Eye

A complaint that Principle 5 (Privacy) had been breached in a front-page court report was upheld. The report included information that a court sitting had to be suspended

Presentation College Carlow and The Nationalist

A complaint that Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) and Principle 2 (Distinguishing Fact and Comment) were breached in a report about a school's policy on the school uniforms of its female students was upheld. The Press Ombudsman was critical of the newspaper's reliance on information gathered from social media and a failure to correct inaccuracies in the report when these were made clear.



Reflections at Poolbeg by Naoise Culhane

A full 'Blue' moon rises behind Poolbeg lighthouse as seen from Clontarf, Dublin.

The decision of the Press Ombudsman was appealed by the newspaper. The Press Council rejected the appeal.

Alan Redd and The Irish Times

A complaint that Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) was breached in a report on a company that provided safe deposit boxes was upheld. The newspaper offered to publish a letter from the complainant and amended the article in its online edition. The Press Ombudsman felt this was not sufficient

to fulfil the requirement found in Principle 1 that inaccuracies need to be corrected promptly and with due prominence.

The decision of the Press Ombudsman was not appealed.

Margaret McCarthy, Cork Traveller Women's Network, Irish Traveller Movement and the Sunday World

A complaint that Principle 5 (Privacy) had been breached in an article about the funeral of a man who had died after contracting Covid-19

was upheld. The Press Ombudsman found that the newspaper breached Principle 5 by reporting private medical information without permission. The newspaper's defence that the cause of death had been made known at the funeral was not accepted.

The decision of the Press Ombudsman was not appealed.

Mr Brian Lohan and the Irish Independent

A complaint that Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) had been

breached in a report which contained some very critical comments about Mr Brian Lohan was upheld. The Press Ombudsman found that Mr Lohan should have been afforded an opportunity to respond to the critical information that was to be published about him in advance of publication. It was found that the newspaper's offer to publish a follow-up interview was not sufficient to avoid breaching Principle 1.

The decision of the Press Ombudsman was

appealed. The Press Council rejected the appeal.

David O'Brien and DublinLive.ie

A complaint that Principle 2 (Distinguishing Fact and Comment) was breached in a report that stated that an alleged member of an organised crime gang had been 'spotted' in Dublin was upheld. The defence put forward by the newspaper - that the information in the article was reported as attributed to sources - was not accepted. The Press Ombudsman found that some of the information was stated as fact and not attributed to sources.

The decision of the Press Ombudsman was not appealed.

A Man and The Irish Times

A complaint that Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) had been breached was upheld. An article giving advice on taxation to those aged 65 and older required clarification. The newspaper amended the article online but did not publish a clarification as required under Principle 1.

The decision of the Press Ombudsman was not appealed.

All decisions of the Press Ombudsman are available at www.pressombudsman.ie

Communications/ Outreach Programme

The communications and outreach programme of the Office of the Press Ombudsman was curtailed by restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic for all of 2021. Where possible the programme continued online.

Online presentations and seminars were made to students attending NUI Galway, Griffith College, Coláiste Dhúlaigh, University of Limerick and the King's Inns.

Participation in the Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE) was also curtailed in 2021, although its Annual International Conference was held remotely over a two-day period, and other levels of online participation in webinars and meetings remained possible.

Advisory Notices

The Office on occasions issues Advisory Notices to editors, typically drawing editors' attention to upcoming circumstances where there is likely to be media interest, often at times of tragedy and distress. Also, on occasions organisations working on behalf of the public good can avail of Advisory Notices to inform editors of particular concerns. Editors welcome Advisory Notices as they draw attention to circumstances where journalists may not be aware of issues which may impact on readers in unforeseen ways.

There were 6 Advisory Notices issued in 2021.

An Advisory Notice was issued to editors reminding them of the rights of privacy of a child involved in an incident where another person was killed.

An Advisory Notice was issued on behalf of a family seeking privacy where a family member had been convicted of child sex abuse.

An Advisory Notice was issued to editors to be cautious in the reporting of a killing where "not guilty by reasons of insanity" was the court verdict.

An Advisory Notice was issued about the requirement to observe privacy in the reporting of matters before the family courts.

An Advisory Notice was issued reminding editors of the need for caution in the reporting of murder-suicides.

An Advisory notice was issued regarding the use of the expression "child porn". An organisation that provides services for victims of sexual abuse asked if editors, when referring to images of 'child pornography' would, unless referring to an actual charge or conviction under the legislation, consider using as an alternative the term 'child sexual abuse'.

Case Officer's Report

The complaints process

Any person or organisation can make a complaint about an article published by a member publication of the Press Council of Ireland (a full list of member publications can be found on pages 22 to 27), or about the behaviour of a journalist, so long as

- the person or organisation making the complaint is personally affected by the article or journalistic behaviour
- the complaint presents evidence of a possible breach of the Press Council's Code of Practice
- the article was published, or the behaviour took place, within the previous three months
- the complainant has made a written complaint under the Code of Practice to the editor of the publication concerned

The requirement for a complainant to make a complaint directly to the editor in the first instance is an important one. Member publications, when contacted directly by a complainant and presented with evidence to show that something that was published may have presented a possible breach of the Code of Practice, are typically willing to offer swift redress.

Conciliation

The Office provides a quick, independent and free method of resolving complaints. We work closely with both the complainant and the editor to find a resolution to complaints in a non-legalistic and speedy manner. Complaints that are dealt with satisfactorily through the conciliation process are resolved without any decision having to be made as to whether or not a breach of the Code of Practice took place. This means that the complaint is processed more speedily than if a decision has to be made by the Press Ombudsman and more importantly, the complaint is resolved in a manner that is satisfactory to the complainant.

How complaints were resolved

Two-thirds of complaints processed in 2021 were



Bernie Grogan - Case Officer

resolved through the Office's conciliation service to the satisfaction of complainants. It is important to note that the conciliation service works only if a complainant is satisfied with the proposed outcome: if a satisfactory outcome cannot be arrived at the Press Ombudsman will make a decision on the complaint. Complaints are generally resolved through the conciliation process within a period of about two to three weeks after submission.

The nature of complaints that were resolved ranged from issues relating to alleged inaccuracies, to the publication of photographs, to matters relating to the reporting of Covid-19.

How complaints are resolved depends on the nature and significance of the complaint, and whether or not the article was published in print, online, or both. Some complaints were resolved by:

- the amendment or deletion of online material
- the publication of a correction, apology, or clarification
- an undertaking by the editor on future coverage of the subject matter of the complaint
- a meeting with the editor
- the publication of a right of reply
- an explanation from the editor as to the

background to the publication of the material complained about

- mediation

The majority of complaints that were resolved to the satisfaction of complainants related to online articles. A complaint about material published online can usually, by its very nature, be resolved more speedily than a complaint about material published in print.

While amending an online article is quite often a satisfactory and speedy resolution to a complaint, it must be remembered that an online article is part of a publication's archive, so editors will look for some form of verification that an online article presented a breach of the Code before altering its archive.

Covid-19 Complaints

Almost 200 complaints received in 2021 related to the reporting of Covid-19.

Social media was a driving force in the generation of many of these complaints. Common to the majority of complaints that were received about Covid-19 articles was that they were the subject of quite a vigorous Facebook campaign by an anonymous Facebook group. The Facebook group provided the text of complaints for submission to the Office in respect of a number of articles, and urged followers to submit a complaint to the Press Ombudsman.

While there is no rule to say that complaints cannot be submitted in such a fashion, there is no benefit to such campaigns, since the Office has a long-established policy, when it receives multiple complaints about one article, to process all of the complaints by the establishment of a 'lead' complainant. Multiple complaints submitted via social media campaigns merely clog the efficient and effective operation of the complaints process.

Three complaints about Covid-19 reporting were resolved through conciliation, eight complaints became the subject of a decision of the Press

Mediation

Complaints can also be resolved through mediation. This is where an editor and the complainant meet, on a strictly voluntary and confidential basis, to discuss a complaint with the aim of arriving at a mutually satisfactory settlement. The process is facilitated by a trained mediator who will assist the parties to clarify the issues involved and explore various options for coming to a resolution. It is swift and flexible and presents an opportunity for complainants to meet with an editor to discuss their complaint in detail.

Ombudsman, and one was referred directly to the Press Council by the Press Ombudsman.

Key themes in the complaints considered were accuracy (particularly in opinion pieces) in relation to the science and research surrounding Covid-19, matters of public interest and causing grave offence.

There is no doubt that reporting on Covid-19 in a rapidly changing environment can be challenging for editors, and the material published can be contradicted by readers, but member publications are entitled to rely on publicly available statistics or data to support a point of view advanced in an article. They are also entitled to publish opinion pieces by subject experts that express a particular point of view, so long as the material published is accurate, and is not misleading or distorted.

Public interest was also raised in many of the complaints received about the reporting of Covid-19, and in two complaints that were the subject of a decision by the Press Ombudsman, the publications argued that publication of the information was in the public interest. While public interest is not specifically defined in the Code of Practice, the Code states a general principle that the public interest is invoked in relation to a matter capable of affecting the people at large so that they may legitimately be interested in receiving and the press legitimately interested in providing information about it.

Many people complained (and this was particularly the case in relation to the Facebook campaigns) that publication of information about Covid-19, about which they disagreed, caused grave offence or stirred up hatred against people who decided not to be vaccinated. However, this group of people are not covered under any of the twelve grounds provided for in Principle 8 of the Code of Practice.

Public engagement

The Office is committed to publicising the service that we provide as widely as possible, and to seeking out opportunities to engage with the public so as to ensure that the service we provide is familiar to anyone who might need it. We run information seminars and training courses for voluntary organisations and support groups to assist them in their dealings with the press.

These seminars are useful for advocacy teams, information officers and service users. They include an explanation of how a complaint should be made, what can be complained about, and what the likely outcome will be.

This service remained available throughout the year through video conferencing despite the restriction on work practices as a result of Covid-19.

Individuals and organisations should contact the Office directly if they would like us to run an information seminar or training course for their members.

The Office is also happy to offer advice and assistance to anyone who, while not wishing to make a formal complaint, may seek guidance on how to proceed with an issue relating to the press.



In It Together by Brian Lawless

Two women prepare to enter the sea off Bull Wall in Dublin as Ireland woke up to snow and ice on a Sunday morning.

The Press Council of Ireland

The Press Council of Ireland has 13 members, who ex officio constitute the Board of Directors of The Press Council of Ireland CLG.

In 2021 Mr Frank Fitzgibbon reached the end of his term of office on the Press Council. He was replaced by Mr Conor O'Donnell.

At 31 December 2021 the members of the Press Council were:

Independent members:

- Mr Seán Donlon (Chairman)
- Ms Patricia O'Donovan (Deputy Chair)
- Dr Ruth Barrington
- Professor Maeve Conrick
- Ms Sunniva McDonagh
- Dr Tim Hinchey
- Ms Edith Geraghty

Members drawn from the press industry:

- Mr Ken Davis
- Ms Samantha McCaughran
- Mr Ruadhán Mac Cormaic
- Ms Catherine Lee
- Ms Siobhán Holliman
- Mr Conor O'Donnell

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Press Council held its Annual General Meeting on 3 September 2021. The meeting approved the company accounts.

CODE COMMITTEE

The Code Committee is responsible for keeping the Code of Practice under review and updating it when necessary, in consultation with the Press Council.

At 31 December 2021 the members of the Code Committee were:

- Mr Brendan Keenan (Chairman)
- Mr David Burke (Tuam Herald)
- Mr Cormac Bourke (INM)
- Ms Susan Daly (TheJournal.ie)
- Mr Chris Dooley (The Irish Times)
- Mr Seamus Dooley (NUJ)
- Ms Nóirín Hegarty (The Sunday Times)
- Mr Neil Leslie (Irish Daily Star)
- Mr Kieran McDaid (Irish Sun)
- Mr Peter Feeney (Press Ombudsman) (ex officio)

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The independent public interest directors of the Press Council are appointed by an independent Appointments Committee following a process of public advertisement, short-listing and interview. The Committee also receives nominations from the press industry for the six industry seats on the Council.

At 31 December 2021 the members of the Appointments Committee were:

- Mr Dermot McCarthy
- Ms Bride Rosney
- Professor Frances Ruane
- Mr Seán Donlon (Chairman of the Press Council)

APPEALS

Either party may appeal a substantive decision of the Press Ombudsman to the Press Council on one or both of the following grounds:

1. That the procedures followed in making the decision were not in accordance with the published procedures for submitting and

- considering complaints.
2. That there was an error in the Press Ombudsman’s application of the Principles of the Code of Practice.

In 2021 the Council considered twelve appeals (two of the appeals were carried over from the previous year). One appeal was upheld and eleven were rejected.

The appeal that was upheld was as follows:

The editor of Kerry’s Eye appealed a decision of the Press Ombudsman to uphold a complaint by a man that Kerry’s Eye breached Principle 5 (Privacy) of the Code of Practice, following publication of a front page article under the heading “Virus chaos as courts collapse”.

The article outlined how District Courts in Kerry were adjourned after a senior garda officer confirmed he had tested positive for Covid-19. The senior garda was named in the article and the article included his photograph.

The Press Ombudsman found that as the Covid test result was not given as evidence in open court the newspaper was not entitled to name the complainant. He also found that the result of the Covid test the complainant had received was private medical information and should not have been published without his consent.

The Press Council upheld the editor’s appeal and overturned the decision, stating that the Press Ombudsman had not demonstrated any consideration of the public interest threshold put forward by the newspaper in its defence of its publication of the information complained about, and that publication of the information was consistent with Principle 5.2 and Principle 5.4 of the Code of Practice.

REFERRAL

The Press Ombudsman exercised his discretion by referring one complaint directly to the Press Council for a decision. The Chairman of the Press Council activated a sub-committee of the Council to consider the complaint and make a decision.



Easter Commemoration by Damien Storan

Captain Marie Carrigy reads the Proclamation outside the GPO to mark the anniversary of the Easter Rising.

The complaint was about an article written by the Sunday Independent which commented, amongst other things, about a book review by the complainant published in another newspaper. The complainant said that the article breached Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) and Principle 2 (Distinguishing Fact and Comment) of the Code of Practice because it maligned his reputation and misrepresented his views and identified him with political beliefs which he did not hold, and that it associated him with political and other groupings which he did not have.

The sub-committee stated that comment and opinion articles enjoy a wide measure of protection under the Preamble to the Code of Practice, which states that the freedom to publish *"... includes the right of the press to publish what it considers to be news, without fear or favour, and the right to comment upon it."*

The sub-committee concluded that the Sunday Independent published an extremely robust and

critical article that used somewhat intemperate language to set out the opinions of the writer. However, it said that the article under complaint was clearly an opinion piece, appearing as it did on a page with a headline that read "Opinion" and published online in the "Comments" section of the online archive.

It said that in all the circumstances an offer made by the editor to publish a right of reply from the complainant in which he could set out his position in response to the article, and to add it to the online version of the article as a postscript, together with an offer to clarify that the complainant was not a supporter of a border poll, was sufficient to resolve the complaint.

The complainant appealed the decision of the sub-committee to the full Press Council but the Council rejected the appeal.

All appeals and referrals considered by the Press Council are available at www.presscouncil.ie



Murmuration by James Crombie
A starling murmuration over Lough Ennell, Co. Westmeath.

Press Council



MEMBERS' NAMES

1 Mr Seán Donlon, Chairman 2 Ms Patricia O'Donovan, Deputy Chair
3 Prof Maeve Conrick 4 Dr Ruth Barrington 5 Ms Sunniva McDonagh
6 Mr Conor O'Donnell 7 Mr Ruadhán Mac Cormaic 8 Ms Catherine Lee
9 Mr Ken Davis 10 Ms Edith Geraghty 11 Dr Tim Hinchey
12 Ms Samantha McCaughren 13 Ms Siobhán Holliman

Finance Report

The finances of the Press Council of Ireland are provided for, under the terms of its Constitution, by the Administrative Committee of the Press Council.

The Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman are fully funded by member publications and each member title of the Council is levied in accordance with formulae determined by the Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee is charged with making full provision for the administrative needs of the Press Council and of the Office of the Press Ombudsman including funding, premises and staffing.

The Administrative Committee includes representatives of NewsBrands Ireland, Local Ireland, online-only news publications and the National Union of Journalists. It determines its own membership, with the exception of the Chair, who is appointed by the Press Council.

At 31 December 2021 the members were:

- Ms Patricia O'Donovan (Chair)
- Mr Adrian Acosta
- Mr Bob Hughes
- Mr Seamus Dooley
- Mr David McDonagh
- Ms Ann Marie Lenihan
- Mr Colm O'Reilly
- Mr Cliff Taylor
- Mr Paul Henderson
- Mr Colin Kerr

The costs for 2021 of the Press Council and Office of the Press Ombudsman, together with comparative figures for the previous year, were as follows:

	2021	2020
Directors' fees	€55,000	€26,250
Staff salaries	€168,835	€192,651
Employer PRSI contributions for staff	€3,108	€8,473
Retirement benefits - defined contribution scheme	€3,538	€4,464
Hotels, travel and subsistence	€150	€1,097
Printing and stationery	€2,001	€1,778
Telephone	€2,255	€1,819
Computer costs	€8,879	€7,084
Memberships	€760	€1,879
Legal and professional	€250	€3,230
Auditors' remuneration	€3,120	€3,150
Bank charges	€357	€381
Sundry expenses	€1,264	€3,728
Rent, rates and services	€30,464	€30,443
Cleaning	€388	€784
Insurances	€4,439	€4,753
Repairs and maintenance	-	€1,415
Conference attendance costs	-	€232
Management services	€16,000	€18,000
Annual Report and launch	€1,038	€800
Meeting room facilities	-	€618
Depreciation	€2,133	€1,090
Advertising	€300	-
AIPCE/EU	-€2,469*	-
Total expenditure	€301,810	€314,119

*The Press Council received €2,469 from a European Commission-funded programme called "Media Councils in the Digital Age" for work carried out by the Council on the development of a European-wide website, presscouncils.eu

Member Publications

NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Irish Daily Mail	Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20 – 38 Haddington Road, D04 HE94.	01 637 5800	www.mailonline.ie
Irish Daily Mirror	2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.	01 868 8600	www.irishmirror.ie
Irish Daily Star	2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.	01 499 3400	www.thestar.ie
Irish Examiner	Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.	021 427 2722	www.irishexaminer.com
Irish Farmers Journal	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.	01 419 9599	www.farmersjournal.ie
Irish Independent	Independent House, 27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 705 5333	www.independent.ie
Irish Mail on Sunday	Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20 – 38 Haddington Road, D04 HE94.	01 637 5800	www.mailonline.ie
Irish Sunday Mirror	2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.	01 868 8600	www.irishmirror.ie
Sunday Independent	Independent House, 27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 705 5333	www.independent.ie
Sunday World	5th Floor, Independent House, 27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 884 8973	www.sundayworld.com
The Business Post	Post Publications Ltd, 2nd Floor, Block B, The Merrion Centre, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.	01 602 6000	www.businesspost.ie
The Herald	Independent House, 27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 705 5333	www.independent.ie
The Irish Sun	The Watermarque Building, 1st Floor, 50 Ringsend Road, Dublin 4.	01 479 2579	www.thesun.ie
The Irish Sun on Sunday	The Watermarque Building, 1st Floor, 50 Ringsend Road, Dublin 4.	01 479 2579	www.thesun.ie
The Irish Times	The Irish Times Building, PO Box 74, 24 - 28 Tara Street, Dublin 2.	01 675 8000	www.irishtimes.com
The Sunday Times	The Watermarque Building, 1st Floor, 50 Ringsend Road, Dublin 4.	01 479 2424	www.sundaytimes.ie

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Bray People	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Carlow Nationalist	Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.	059 917 0100	www.carlow-nationalist.ie
Clare Champion	Barrack Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.	065 682 8105	www.clarechampion.ie
Connacht Tribune	15 Market Street, Galway.	091 536 222	www.connachttribune.ie
Connaught Telegraph	No. 1 Main Street, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.	094 902 1711	www.con-telegraph.ie
Derry News	19 Carlisle Road, Derry BT48 6JJ.	00 28 7129 6600	www.derrynow.com
Donegal Democrat	Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal.	074 912 8000	www.donegallive.ie
Donegal News	St. Anne's Court, High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	074 912 1014	www.donegalnews.com
Donegal People's Press	Larkin House, Oldtown Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	074 974 0160	www.donegallive.ie
Donegal Post	Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal.	074 974 0160	www.donegaldaily.com
Drogheda Independent	9 Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.	041 983 8658	www.independent.ie
Dublin Inquirer	65 Crumlin Road, Dublin 12.	087 392 4796	www.dublininquirer.com
Dundalk Democrat	7 Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	042 933 4058	www.dundalkdemocrat.ie
Enniscorthy Guardian	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Fingal Independent	Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin.	01 840 7107	www.independent.ie
Gorey Guardian	Market Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford.	053 942 1091	www.independent.ie
Inish Times	33 Upper Main Street, Ardaraven, Buncrana, Co. Donegal.	074 934 1055	www.donegallive.ie
Kerry's Eye	22 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.	066 714 9200	www.kerryseye.com
Kildare Nationalist	Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.	045 432 147	www.kildare-nationalist.ie
Kildare Post	Unit WD5, Toughers Industrial Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.	045 408200	www.KildareNow.com
Kilkenny People	34 High Street, Kilkenny.	056 772 1015	www.kilkennypeople.ie
Laois Nationalist	Coliseum Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	057 867 0216	www.laois-nationalist.ie
Leinster Express	107 Main Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	057 862 1666	www.leinsterexpress.ie
Leinster Leader	Unit WD5, Toughers Industrial Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.	045 897 302	www.leinsterleader.ie
Leitrim Observer	3 Hartley Business Park, Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.	071 962 0025	www.leitrimobserver.ie
Limerick Leader	29 Glentworth Street, Limerick.	061 214 500	www.limerickleader.ie
Limerick Post	97 Henry Street, Limerick, V94 V4Y2.	061 413 322	www.limerickpost.ie

Longford Leader	Leader House, Dublin Road, Longford.	043 334 5241	www.longfordleader.ie
Mayo News	The Fairgreen, Westport, Co. Mayo.	098 253 11	www.mayonews.ie
Meath Chronicle	Market Square, Navan, Co. Meath.	046 907 9600	www.meathchronicle.ie
Midland Tribune	Connaught Street, Birr, Co. Offaly.	057 912 0003	www.offalylive.ie
Munster Express	37 The Quay, Waterford.	051 872 141	www.munster-express.ie
Nenagh Guardian	13 Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.	067 312 14	www.nenaghguardian.ie
New Ross Standard	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Northern Standard	The Diamond, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.	047 821 88	www.northernstandard.ie
Roscommon Herald	Bridge Street, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.	071 966 2004	www.roscommonherald.ie
Sligo Champion	Connacht House, Markievicz Road, Sligo.	071 916 9222	www.sligochampion.ie
The Anglo Celt	Kilmore Business Park, Dublin Road, Cavan.	049 433 1100	www.anglocelt.ie
The Argus	Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	042 933 4632	www.independent.ie
The Avondhu	Avondhu Press, 18 Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.	025 24451	www.avondhupress.ie
The Clare Echo	36c Abbey Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.	065 671 9021	www.clareecho.ie
The Corkman	The Spa, Mallow, Co. Cork.	022 423 94	www.independent.ie
The Echo	Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.	021 427 2722	www.echolive.ie
The Kerryman	Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.	066 714 5560	www.independent.ie
The Leader	29 Glentworth Street, Limerick.	061 214500	www.limerickleader.ie
The Nationalist	Queen Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.	052 617 2500	www.tipperarylive.ie
The Southern Star	Ilen Street, Skibbereen, Cork.	028 212 00	www.southernstar.ie
Tipperary Star	Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.	0504 291 00	www.tipperarylive.ie
Tuam Herald	Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.	093 241 83	www.tuamherald.ie
Tullamore Tribune	William Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.	057 932 1152	www.offalylive.ie
Waterford News & Star	Gladstone House, Gladstone Street, Waterford.	051 874 951	www.waterford-news.com
Western People	Tone Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo.	096 60 999	www.westernpeople.ie
Westmeath Examiner	Blackhall Place, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.	044 934 6700	www.westmeathexaminer.ie
Westmeath Independent	11 Sean Costello Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.	090 643 4300	www.westmeathindependent.ie
Wexford People	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie
Wicklow People	Channing House, Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.	053 914 0100	www.independent.ie

MAGAZINES

Accountancy Ireland	Chartered Accountants House, 47 - 49 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.	01 637 7392	www.accountancyireland.ie
Business Plus	30 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4.	01 660 8400	www.bizplus.ie
Hot Press	100 Capel Street, Dublin 1.	01 241 1500	www.hotpress.com
Irish Country Magazine	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.	01 419 9500	www.irishcountrymagazine.ie
Irish Medical Times	Merchants Hall, 25 Merchants' Quay, Dublin 8.	01 817 6347	www.imt.ie
Irish Tatler Magazine	Post Publications Ltd, 2nd Floor, Block B, The Merrion Centre, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.	01 602 6000	www.irishtatler.com
Law Society Gazette	Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.	01 672 4828	www.lawsocietygazette.ie
RTÉ Guide	RTÉ Publishing, RTÉ, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.	01 208 2920	www.rteguide.ie
Síocháin	Garda Síochána Retired Members Association, 5 Harrington Street, Dublin 8.	01 478 1525	www.gardaretired.com
Stubbs Gazette	The Priory, Stillorgan Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.	01 672 5939	www.stubbsgazette.ie
The Gloss	Gloss Publications Ltd., The Courtyard, 40 Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.	01 275 5130	www.thegloss.ie
The Irish Field	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.	01 405 1100	www.irishfield.ie
The Irish Journalist	NUJ, 2nd Floor, Spencer House, Spencer Row, Off Store Street, Dublin 1.	01 817 0340	www.nuj.org.uk
Village	Ormond Quay Publishing, 6 Ormond Quay Upper, Dublin 7.	01 873 5824	www.villagemagazine.ie
Work & Life Magazine	Fórfas Trade Union, Nerney's Court, Dublin 1.	01 817 1500	www.impact.ie

ONLINE ONLY PUBLICATIONS

BreakingNews.ie	Landmark Digital, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.	021 480 2309	www.breakingnews.ie
Buzz.ie	1st Floor, Independent House, 27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.	01 499 3440	www.buzz.ie
CarlowLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.carlowlive.ie
CorkBeo.ie	Morrison House, Morrison Quay, Cork.	021 494 970	www.corkbeo.ie
DerryNow.com	19 Carlisle Road, Derry BT48 6JJ.	00 44 28 7129 6600	www.derrynow.com
DonegalLive.ie	Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal.	074 912 8000	www.donegallive.ie
DublinLive.ie	2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.	01 868 8600	www.dublinlive.ie
EchoLive.ie	Linn Dubh, Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.	021 427 2722	www.echolive.ie
EVOKE.ie	Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20 – 38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4. D04 HE94.	01 637 5800	www.evoke.ie
Extra.ie	Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20 – 38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4. D04 HE94.	01 637 5800	www.extra.ie
KildareNow.com	Unit WD5, Toughers Industrial Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.	045 408200	www.kildarenow.com
Galwaybeo.ie	2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.	01 868 8600	www.galwaybeo.ie
OffalyExpress.ie	107 Lower Main Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	057 862 1666	www.offalyexpress.ie
Rollercoaster.ie	Top Floor, Two Haddington Buildings, 20 – 38 Haddington Road, Dublin 4. D04 HE94.	01 6375800	www.rollercoaster.ie
TheJournal.ie	Journal Media Ltd, 3rd Floor, Latin Hall, Golden Lane, Dublin 8.	01 255 1300	www.thejournal.ie
The42.ie	Journal Media Ltd, 3rd Floor, Latin Hall, Golden Lane, Dublin 8.	01 255 1300	www.the42.ie
TipperaryLive.ie	Tipperary Star, Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.	0504 291 00	www.tipperarylive.ie
WaterfordLive.ie	Iconic Newspapers Ltd, 30 Hatch Lane, Dublin 2.	01 678 0000	www.waterfordlive.ie

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Icarus	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.icarusmagazine.com
JOLT - Journal of Literary Translation	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Miscellany	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Motley	UCC Students' Union, 54 College Road, Cork.	021 490 3218	www.motley.ie
Pirhana!	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
SIN	NUIG Students' Union, Aras na Mac Leinn, NUI Galway.	091 493 262	www.sin.ie
University Observer	UCD Students' Union, UCD Sports & Student Centre, Belfield, Dublin 4.	01 716 3835	www.universityobserver.ie
The University Times	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.universitytimes.ie
TN2	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Trinity Film Review	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitypublications.ie
Trinity News	House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2.	01 896 2335	www.trinitynews.ie
UCC Express	UCC Students' Union, 54 College Road, Cork.	021 490 3218	www.uccexpress.ie

Code Of Practice

Preamble

The freedom to publish is vital to the right of the people to be informed. This freedom includes the right of the press to publish what it considers to be news, without fear or favour, and the right to comment upon it.

Freedom of the press carries responsibilities. Members of the press have a duty to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards.

This Code sets the benchmark for those standards. It is the duty of the Press Ombudsman and Press Council of Ireland to ensure that it is honoured in the spirit as well as in the letter, and it is the duty of Press Council print and online media members (the press) to assist them in that task.

In dealing with complaints, the Ombudsman and Press Council will give consideration to what they perceive to be the public interest. It is for them to define the public interest in each case, but the general principle is that the public interest is invoked in relation to a matter capable of affecting the people at large so that they may legitimately be interested in receiving and the print and online news media legitimately interested in providing information about it.

PRINCIPLE 1 – TRUTH AND ACCURACY

- 1.1 In reporting news and information, the press shall strive at all times for truth and accuracy.
- 1.2 When a significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distorted report or picture has been published, it shall be corrected promptly and with due prominence.
- 1.3 When appropriate, a retraction, apology, clarification, explanation or response shall be published promptly and with due prominence.

PRINCIPLE 2 – DISTINGUISHING FACT AND COMMENT

- 2.1 The press is entitled to advocate strongly its own views on topics.
- 2.2 Comment, conjecture, rumour and unconfirmed reports shall not be reported as if they are fact.
- 2.3 Readers are entitled to expect that the content of the press reflects the best judgment of editors and writers and has not been inappropriately influenced by undisclosed interests. Wherever relevant, any significant financial interest of an organization should be disclosed. Writers should disclose significant potential conflicts of interest to their editors.

PRINCIPLE 3 – FAIR PROCEDURES AND HONESTY

- 3.1 The press shall strive at all times for fair procedures and honesty in the procuring and publishing of news and information.
- 3.2 The press shall not obtain information, photographs or other material through misrepresentation or subterfuge, unless justified by the public interest.
- 3.3 Journalists and photographers must not obtain, or seek to obtain, information and photographs through harassment, unless their actions are justified in the public interest.

PRINCIPLE 4 – RESPECT FOR RIGHTS

Everyone has constitutional protection for his or her good name. The press shall not knowingly publish matter based on malicious misrepresentation or unfounded accusations, and must take reasonable care in checking facts before publication.

PRINCIPLE 5 – PRIVACY

- 5.1 Privacy is a human right, protected as a personal right in the Irish Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights,

which is incorporated into Irish law. The private and family life, home and correspondence of everyone must be respected.

5.2 Readers are entitled to have news and comment presented with respect for the privacy and sensibilities of individuals. However, the right to privacy should not prevent publication of matters of public record or in the public interest.

5.3 Sympathy and discretion must be shown at all times in seeking information in situations of personal grief or shock. In publishing such information, the feelings of grieving families should be taken into account. This should not be interpreted as restricting the right to report judicial proceedings.

5.4 Public persons are entitled to privacy. However, where people hold public office, deal with public affairs, follow a public career, or have sought or obtained publicity for their activities, publication of relevant details of their private life and circumstances may be justifiable where the information revealed relates to the validity of their conduct, the credibility of their public statements, the value of their publicly expressed views or is otherwise in the public interest.

5.5 Taking photographs of individuals in private places without their consent is not acceptable, unless justified by the public interest.

PRINCIPLE 6 – PROTECTION OF SOURCES

Journalists shall protect confidential sources of information.

PRINCIPLE 7 – COURT REPORTING

The press shall strive to ensure that court reports (including the use of images) are fair and accurate, are not prejudicial to the right to a fair trial and that the presumption of innocence is respected.

PRINCIPLE 8 – PREJUDICE

The press shall not publish material intended or likely to cause grave offence or stir up hatred against an individual or group on the basis of their race, religion, nationality, colour, ethnic origin, membership of the travelling community, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, illness or age.

PRINCIPLE 9 – CHILDREN

9.1 The press shall take particular care in seeking and presenting information or comment about a child under the age of 18.

9.2 Journalists and editors should have regard for the vulnerability of children, and in all dealings with children should bear in mind the age of the child, whether parental or other adult consent has been obtained for such dealings, the sensitivity of the subject matter, and what circumstances if any make the story one of public interest. Young people should be free to complete their time at school without unnecessary intrusion. The fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian must not be used as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life.

PRINCIPLE 10 – REPORTING OF SUICIDE

In the reporting of suicide, excessive detail of the means of suicide should be avoided.

PRINCIPLE 11 - PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN / PRESS COUNCIL

11.1 When requested or required by the Press Ombudsman and/or the Press Council to do so, the press shall publish the decision in relation to a complaint with due prominence.

11.2 The content of this Code will be reviewed at regular intervals.



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