



Editorial workshop exercise

The Editor's in-tray

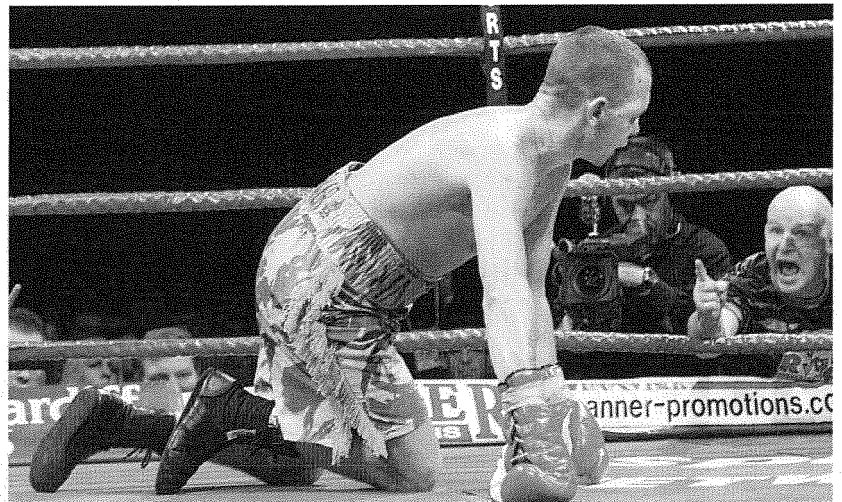
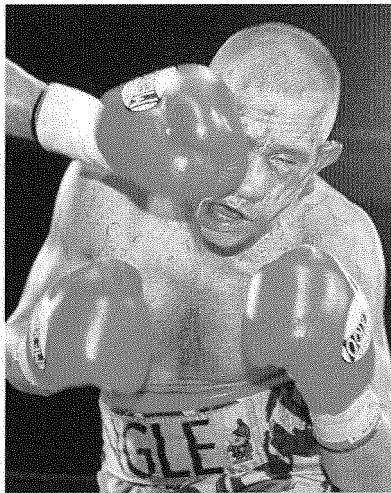
During an average month an editor can be called upon to deal with a wide range of issues. Here are just a few of the topics you might find in your in-tray ...

You have the rest of today to go through them and list the action points you consider necessary. You will be asked to discuss your decisions tomorrow ...

Boxing dilemma

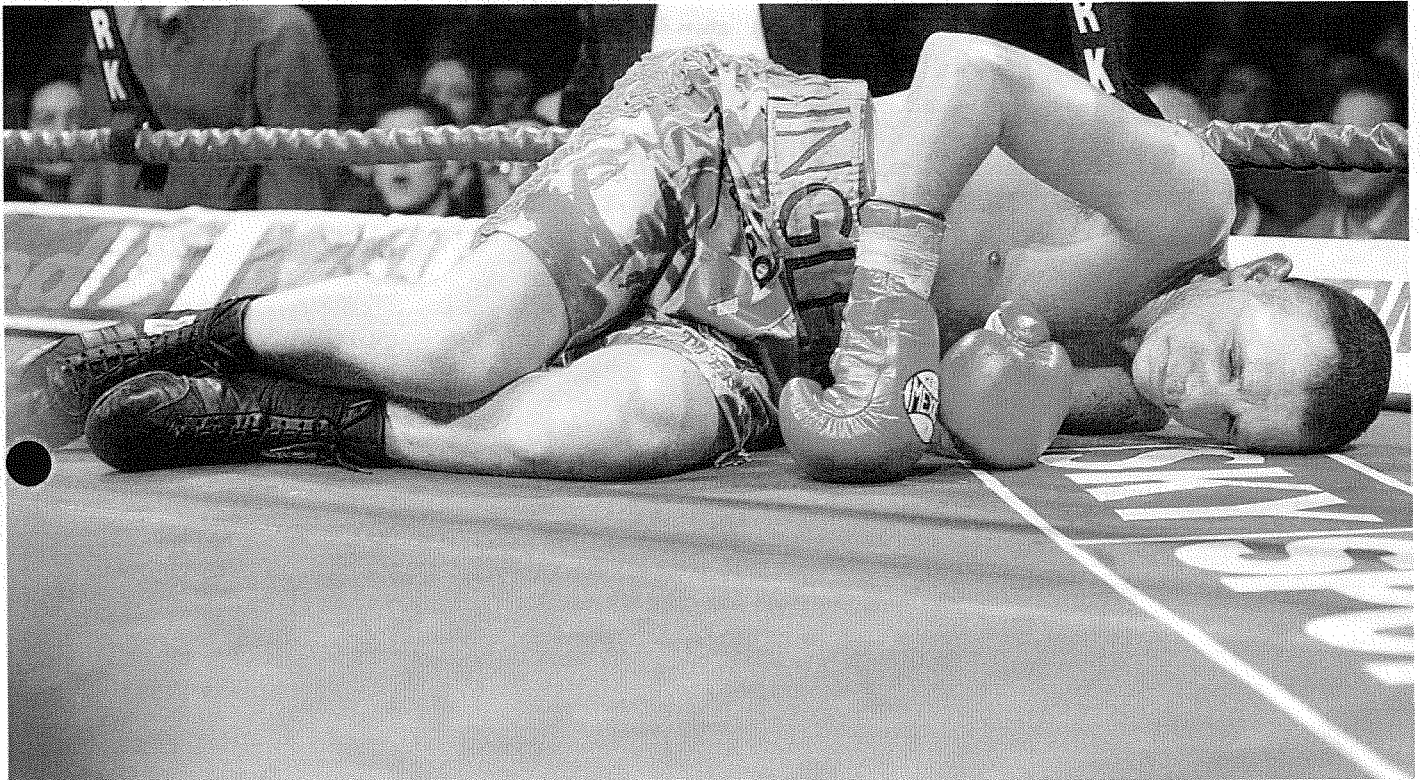
1. A popular and well-known local boxer has taken part in a championship bout in London which was broadcast live last night by Sky TV. During the third round of the fight the local boxer was punched and fell to the floor. Attempts by his ringside team to revive him failed and a doctor was immediately called into the ring. He also failed to revive the boxer who, after being stabilised, was taken to hospital. There was widespread concern for his well-being in the crowd and at one stage his wife went into the ring and was crying as she watched the medical teams at work. The latest bulletins from the hospital have revealed that he is still in a coma.

You had a reporting team – including a photographer – at the event and they have produced a series of stories and pictures. The copy includes a sports report of the bout as well as eyewitness accounts of the drama, an interview with officials from the sport about the dangers etc and some comments from the boxer's family, but not his wife. You also have the following pictures.





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Role of the editor – in-tray exercise
Johnston Press editorial development



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While you are at home watching the events unfold live on TV your partner, who is not a journalist, says to you: "This is horrendous. Surely you aren't going to run pictures of this in the paper. People who know the boxer – and there are many of them – will be really shocked and upset."

The sports team has followed your brief and placed some general still shots (you were not allowed to shoot video because of TV agreements) and a report of the event on the website immediately after the incident. They have kept these, more graphic, pictures back for print publication only.

When you arrive at work the next day your managing director, who also watched the fight, says: "The images of that guy lying on the floor will haunt me for years. I've been into advertising and some of the staff who know him are in tears."

You call the Mayor on another issue and he tells you: "The whole town is in shock. He was an important part of our small community and people I have spoken to are horrified by what happened."

How will you deal with the story and pictures that have been prepared by your staff? What treatment will you give the event in the paper? What approach will you take with the website?

Outline your plans and prepare a justification for your decision.

Armed and dangerous

2. You are the editor of a local weekly centre and your newspaper is on sale tomorrow afternoon, with a deadline of 10am tomorrow morning. Your newsdesk has got a story about an armed robbery this afternoon at a High Street building society in which a shot was fired. The centre of your small town was packed with shoppers at the time and hundreds of people saw what happened. A staff reporter and photographer were also in the street doing a vox pops and they saw the whole incident. They took pictures which show two men wearing masks and holding guns running away from the building society, getting into a car and driving away. In another picture a member of the public is knocked to the ground by the men as they make their getaway. They also have graphic eyewitness accounts of the raid from members of the public who saw it and the reporter has written a first person story about the drama. An assistant from the building society has also given an account of the raid and has been pictured standing next to an internal wall showing the spot which the bullet hit. Calls to police have revealed that two men have been arrested and charged in connection with the raid. They will appear in court tomorrow a couple of hours before you are due to go to press and the news editor says he will be able to get copy about the preliminary hearing back to you to include in the paper and on the website.

How do you want the story handled. Also prepare a legal justification so that you can explain your actions to the staff so they are fully aware of your thinking.

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Name and shame

3. A reporter has written a name and shame story based on complaints from parents on a local housing estate protesting about a convicted sex offender who has moved into a flat near to their homes. He has recently been released from a five-year prison term.

The intro of the report reads: *Parents have demanded a paedophile is moved from his new council flat home - just yards from a playground used by their children.*

The report names the offender, gives the address of the flat, and carries quotes from parents, local councillors and the headteacher of a nearby school expressing concerns about the safety of children while the man is allowed to stay in the flat. They have called for him to be re-housed. Your local MP has refused to comment and has told your reporter that he fears publicity will spark a lynch-mob mentality. He says he intends to work behind the scenes and wants nothing to do with this kind of publicity. Your news editor wants instructions from you about how to take the story forward. Are you prepared to run the story? What are the risks in doing so? What guidelines would you need to follow if you were to go ahead?

Letter to the editor

4. You are a newly appointed editor. One of your first concerns after taking the job and looking at procedures in the editorial department is the lack of a policy in connection with the paper's letters page as well as comments to your website. The letters page, in particular, appears to be extremely political and is dominated by three or four individuals who appear to be conducting a vendetta against the Labour leader of your local council. Some are extremely long, some appear without names and addresses and others have pseudonyms attached. Set out the policy you will put in place.



Editorial workshop exercise

Campaign worries

5. You have received this note from the Ad Director. How will you reply.

Memo

To: The editor

From: The Ad Director

Cc: The managing director

I am writing this memo because I have been approached by several town centre traders worried about your planned campaign over the new town centre one-way traffic system. One of your reporters has contacted several traders seeking quotes and they are worried about the way you will conduct the campaign. The traders are particularly concerned – as I am – about the very negative effect it could have on their businesses.

They all agree that there is a problem with the road system and that they have lost business since the introduction. Takings during the weeks since the system came in are down and many of the businesses say this is a cause for concern.

But they are really worried that if you launch a campaign to make changes to the system this could actually discourage shoppers from coming to the town.

They have told me they will not continue to advertise with us if we are being negative about the town centre and the shopping facilities it offers.

You will no doubt accept that this could be very damaging to our advertising revenues. Town centre traders spend many thousands of pounds with us and there is a very real fear that we could lose this money.

I am sure that now you know of the implications you will drop the campaign.

Please let me know your thoughts.



Editorial workshop exercise

Get the picture?

6. Your telephone rings ...

An angry solicitor is on the line complaining about your newspaper's use of a photograph of his client. The picture is also on your website – but the lawyer does not appear to have seen it and has not included it in his complaint.

The picture, used to illustrate a story of a man wanted for interview in connection with a robbery, was issued at a press conference called by your local head of CID earlier this week.

The solicitor says the photograph issued to you was one of several copies made from an original that was taken illegally from the home of his client's mother by police officers during a search.

He tells you as well that his client, who denies the offence, was arrested by police officers from a neighbouring force an hour or so before your paper's deadline yesterday and that, as a result, you are in contempt of court.

He says he intends to instigate contempt proceedings against you and plans to sue both the police and your newspaper for defamation and infringement of copyright.

Explain how you would respond to the solicitor and what action you would take.

What, if any, are the risks you face?

Tough times

7. It is time for budgets for the year ahead to be set.

Your staff have had to work really hard in recent months. You have had problems recruiting replacements for a reporter and a sub editor which has meant members of the team have had to work extra hours to cover for them. As a result morale has been low.

You are called in to a budget meeting with the managing director who says the company accountants are predicting a tough forthcoming year. He says that one of the key ways of coping with this will be to control costs and that no pay rise is to be above one per cent. Inflation is running at 2.5 per cent.

What arguments, if any, do you put to your managing director? Outline how you would handle this conversation and list some of the points you would want to make.

If you lose the argument, what will you tell your staff?



Editorial workshop exercise

Council chairman's anger

8. A reporter from your paper is asked to leave a parish council meeting because the chairman does not fully understand the rules.

Your paper reports the ban – over a controversial planning application – as outrageous, carries a page one comment about press freedom and later gets an apology from the council which admits the mistake. You tell the newsdesk that as a principle it is important that the meeting is covered in future. But a reporter fails to diary the next meeting and no one from the paper attends.

The chairman of the council writes a letter for publication pointing at the hypocrisy of the paper. He says that “having demanded entrance to the meeting the paper then failed to turn up proving that it is nothing more than a sensationalist rag.”

He adds: “Your interests obviously lie in stirring up controversy but not in reporting the every day decisions that affect the lives of those in the parish. I am sure your readers will be dismayed to hear that the paper insists it wants to keep people informed ... but only on its own terms. In fact, only when it can be bothered.”

The letter arrives on your desk. How will you deal with the chairman of the parish council and the newsdesk ... and in which order.

Playground drug deals

9. The newsdesk has received an anonymous phone call claiming that drugs deals are being done in the playground of a major secondary school in your area. The news editor says they have heard stories before about teenagers at the school being involved in drugs and he thinks it is worth investigating.

He says: “The problem is we can't interview children from the school because we would be in breach of the PCC code of conduct.”

Just what do the guidelines say? Explain what action, if any, you would take.



Editorial workshop exercise

Court reporting dilemma

10. A reporter has called in from magistrates' court. An order has been made by the court under Section 11 of the Contempt of Court Act, stopping you from publishing the name and address of a defendant accused of the attempted murder of a young girl. The reporter says the order has been made following a defence application on the grounds that it was in the public interest. The magistrates were concerned that publication of the defendant's name and address would put the safety of his family in jeopardy. They had been told by the defence solicitor that there were fears his property would be damaged and his family assaulted and that the cost of putting a police guard on his home would cause an additional cost to the county police force. He has also quoted the Human Rights Act to the court and, in particular, Article 8 - Right to Respect for Private and Family Life
What will you say to the reporter? What actions, if any, will you take?

PCC complaint

11. You have received a letter from the Press Complaints Commission in connection with the following scenario. What would be your response to Mr Jones and the PCC.

We have received a complaint from a Mr Hugh Jones complaining that an article in your newspaper headlined 'Butterscotch tart made my mouth water' included a photograph of him without his consent and in breach of Clause 4 (Harassment) of the Code of Practice.

The article was a review of a local restaurant and included a number of photographs of the inside of the dining area, which the complainant contends were taken secretly. The complainant has objected to one particular photograph in which he and his dining companion are clearly visible. He says this picture was taken without his knowledge and consent.

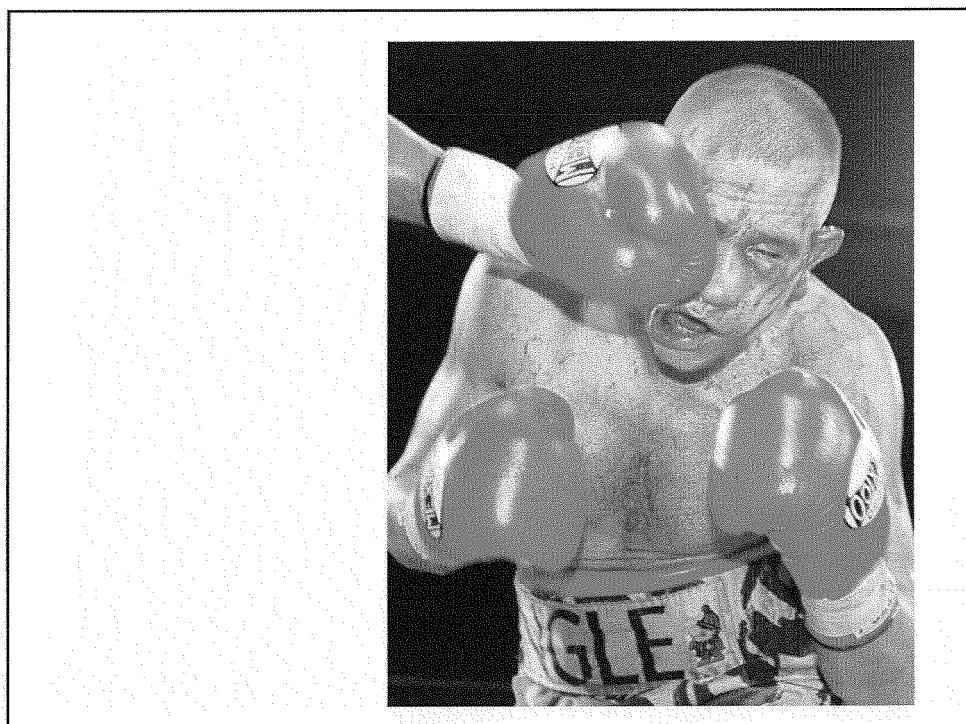
He says the publication of the photograph demonstrates a lack of respect to both himself and his companion, as the reporter/photographer had no knowledge of their identities or the circumstances of their meeting.

Mr Jones wants to know what action you will take on behalf of your newspaper.

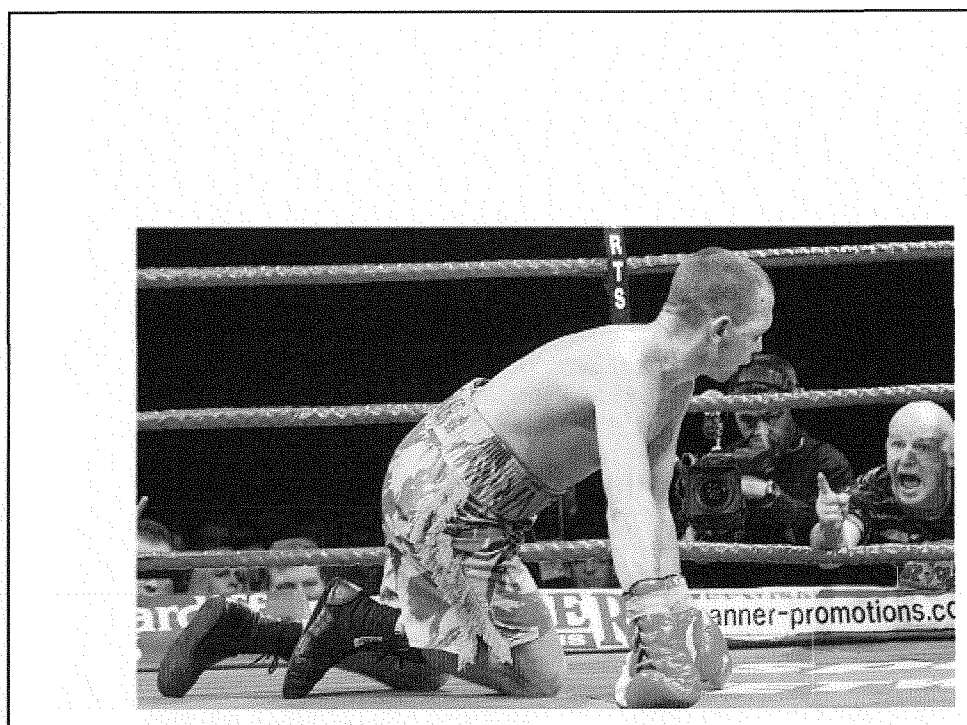
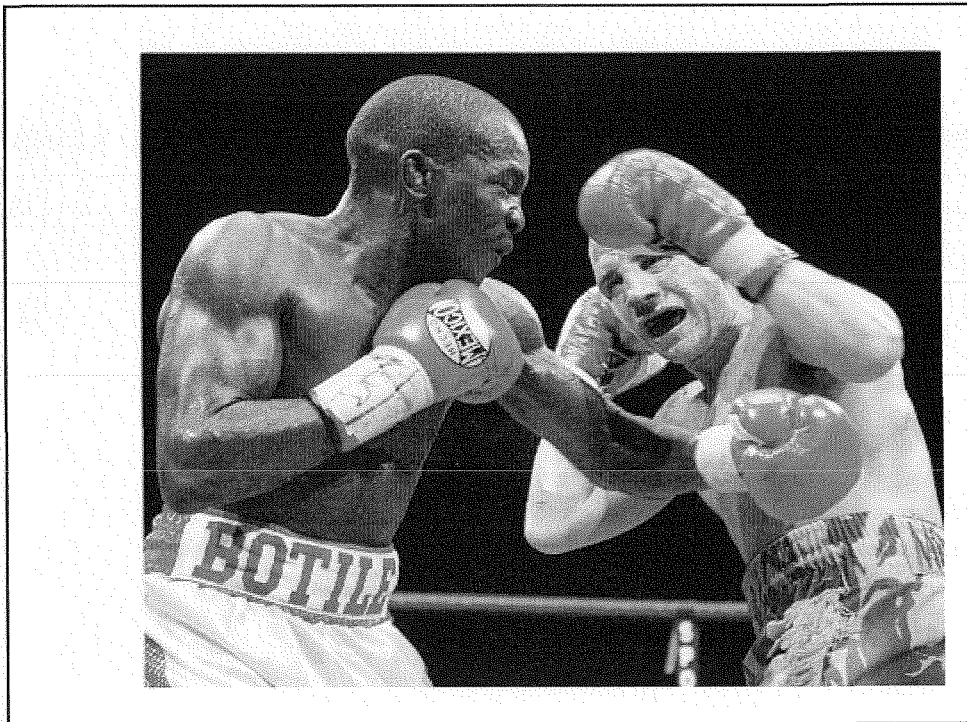
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14/11/2011

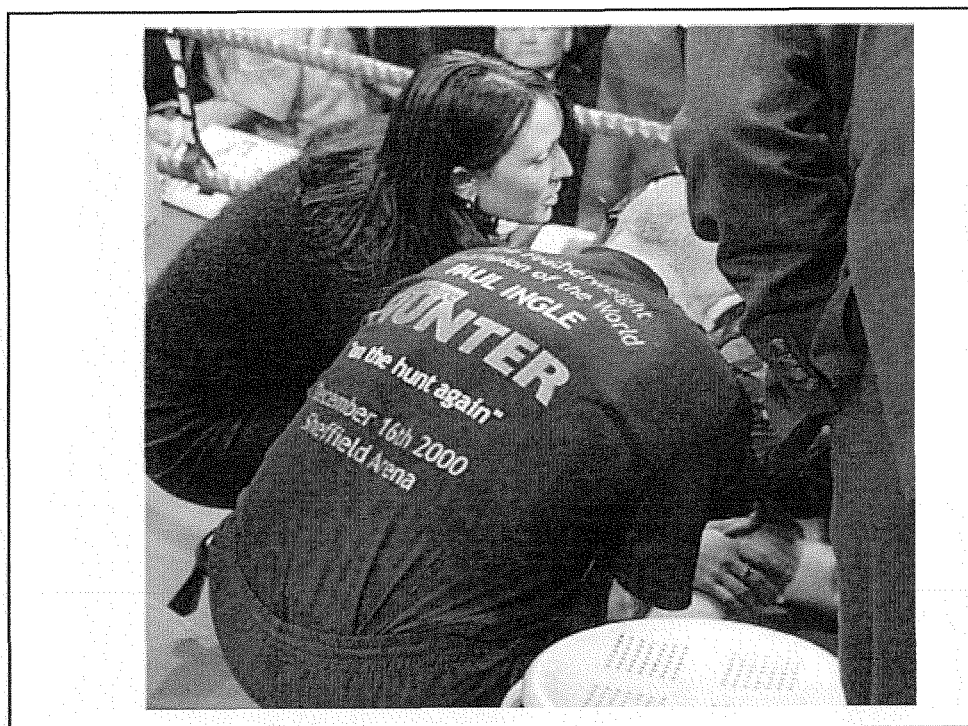
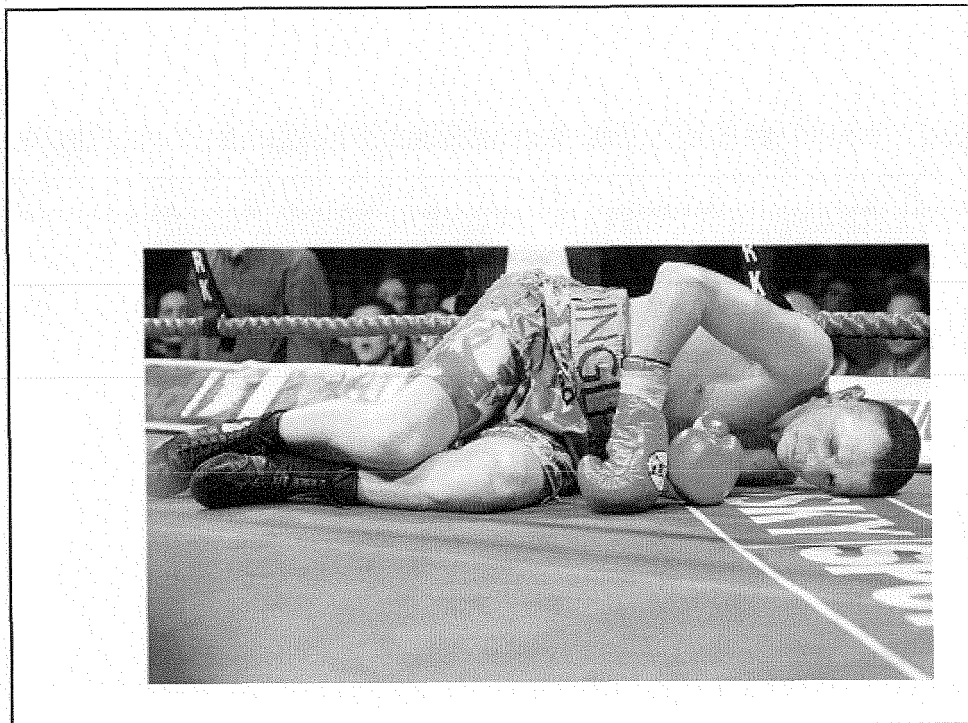
The image is a composite graphic. On the left, there is a stack of newspapers. The central part is a screenshot of the Peterborough Telegraph website, dated Tuesday 24 May 2011. The website header includes the logo 'The morning Telegraph Peterborough Today.co.uk' and navigation links for News, Sport, Lifestyle, and Community. A search bar is present. The main content area features a 'News' section with several headlines: 'Volcano ash delays businessman's flight', 'Water chiefs will not ban hosepipes', and 'Councillor defends Peterborough pot service'. To the right of the website screenshot is an iPhone 4 displaying the 'Stamford Echo' mobile website interface. In the bottom right corner of the composite image is a stylized 'JP' logo.



14/11/2011




14/11/2011



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GOD BE WITH YOU PAUL



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YOU'RE IN OUR HEARTS

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Contempt of Court

- In reality – remember ...

- Even if proceedings are active and an arrest has been made our story has to create a substantial risk of serious prejudice to affect a case

Contempt of Court

- In reality – remember ...

- You will only get into trouble if the accused is pleading not guilty – if the defendant is going to admit the offence we cannot be in contempt

Contempt of Court

- In reality – remember ...

- There is only a real danger when a jury trial is going to be involved – magistrates would generally be above being influenced ... the same with a judge

Contempt of Court

- In reality – remember ...
- The case must be listed to be heard at a local crown court. Distance eliminates risk ... if a crime took place outside your area you are likely to be safe

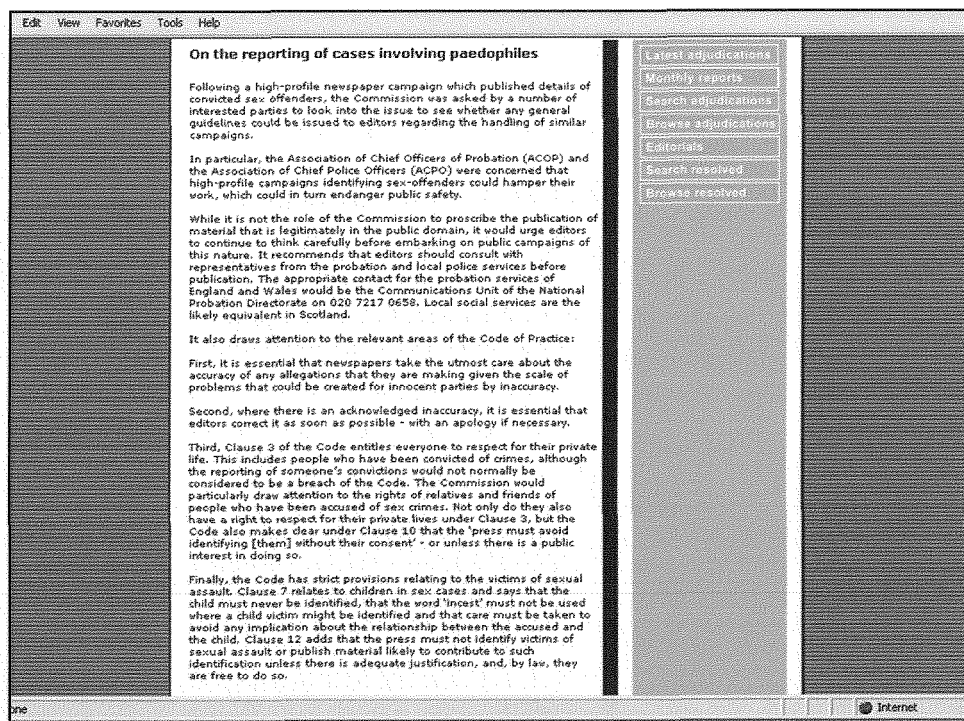
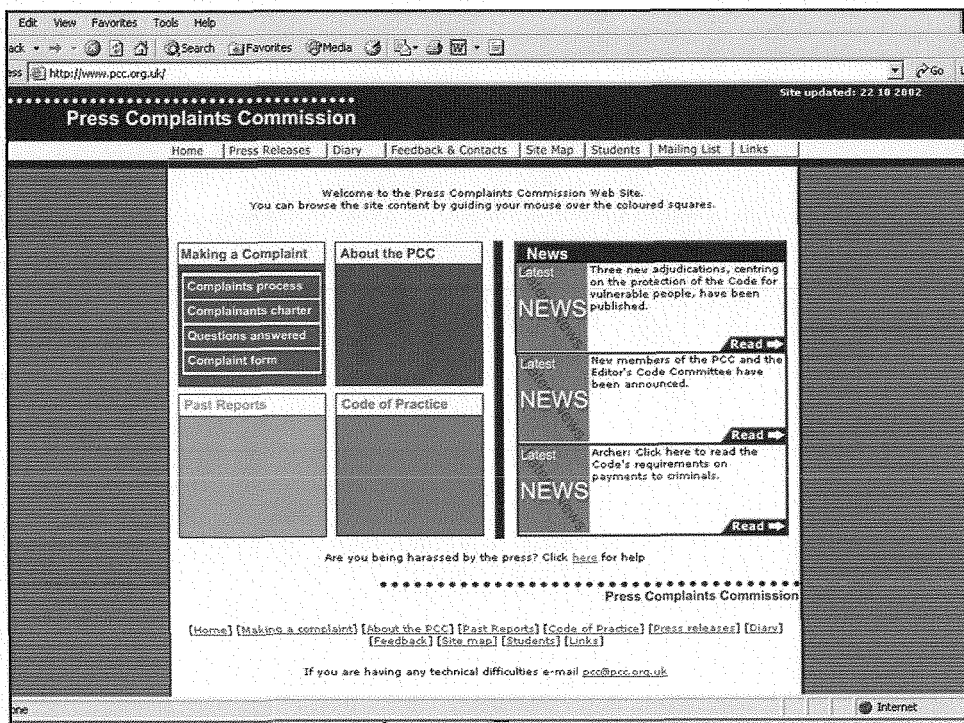
Contempt of Court

- In reality – remember ...
- The case must be less than a month or so away – time diminishes risk

Contempt of Court

- Safe steps for risk takers ...
- Don't use a picture if ID is an issue
- Be cautious over running any admissions of guilt
- Take care with eye-witness reports – although generalisations are okay
- Don't use previous convictions







Group editorial policy

Key elements

- ethical integrity is the cornerstone of our editorial approach
- newspapers must be fit to be read by whole families
- editors must be free to edit without management interference
- editor is legally responsible for entire contents – including advertising



Group editorial policy

Key elements

- editor is legally responsible for entire contents – including advertising

MATURE
MISTRESS

Offers tie & tease massage
in fully equipped
underground dungeon

Domination/humiliation

01604 468576
6 days a week



Group editorial policy

Key elements

- editors should avoid overt and sustained political bias
- titles expected to follow issue led agenda – not party political
- newspapers must be fair and accurate at all times
- we should correct errors promptly, subject to legal constraints
- we should observe the PCC code of practice



Group editorial policy

Key elements

- editors are expected to make managers aware, in advance, of articles they intend to run which could have an adverse commercial impact on the business
- editors right to press freedom appeals procedure



Group editorial policy



Welcome David

The Site S

- Home
- Functions
- Companies
- Advertising
- Digital Strategy
- Editorial
- Finance
- Health & Safety
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Learning & Development
- Marketing Database
- Newspaper Sales & Promotions
- Print Division
- Sports & Exhibitions

Johnston Press Intranet > Functions > Editorial > Editors Site

Johnston Press editors

Last Name	First Name	Business Phone	E-mail Address	Newspaper
Aiken	Clint	02838327777	clint.aiken@jpress.co.uk	Lurgan Mail
Allen	William	02871346889	william.allen@jpress.co.uk	Londonderry Sentinel
Arkle	Ian	0191 251 8494	ian.arkle@northeast-press.co.uk	Whitley Bay News Guardian
Asquith	Ed	01723 363636	Ed.Asquith@ymtd.co.uk	Scarborough Evening News
Bain	Mark	02866762288	mark.bain@jpress.co.uk	Mid Ulster Mail
Bayne	Peter	02887752801	peter.bayne@jpress.co.uk	Tyrone Times
Biewas	Arup	01733 427210	arup.biewas@jpress.co.uk	Johnston Press Digital Publishing
Blackadder	Dessie	02825653300	dessie.blackadder@jpress.co.uk	Ballymena Times/Antrim Times
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Bradley	Mark	01924 375111	mark.bradley@jpress.co.uk	Wakefield Express
Brauner	Stephen	01524 32525	Stephen.brauner@innnews.co.uk	Lancaster Guardian/Morecambe Visitor
Brennan	Clare	01280 827940	clare.brennan@jpress.co.uk	Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser
Bushie	Alistair	02836226111	alistair.bushie@portadowntimes.co.uk	Portadown Times
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Butt	Richard	01674 895602	richard.butt@newswestm.co.uk	Tele of Man Courier

Editor's Handbook



Editor's Handbook & Z guides 2009
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- Quick Launch**
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 - Johnston Press pictures
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 - Useful Documents
 - Editorial Review Group
 - Legal Updates
 - Editors Handbook
 - Editor's seminar March 2011
 - Lists
 - Calendar
 - Tasks
 - Johnston Press editors
 - Useful Contacts
 - Discussions
 - Team Discussion

Group editorial policy

Intranet site for editors

<http://jp-intranet/departments/editorial/editors/default.aspx>

Handbook

<http://jp-intranet/departments/editorial/editors/Editors%20Handbook/Editor%27s%20Handbook%20A-Z%20guide%202009.pdf>



Human Rights Act

Three key areas ...

the right to a fair trial (Article 6), the right to privacy (Article 8) and freedom of expression (Article 10)

Human Rights Act

Article 6 – Right to a Fair Trial

'Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing ...

Human Rights Act

Article 6 – Right to a Fair Trial

‘... judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interests of morals, public order or national security ... where the interests of juveniles or protection of private life is required.’

Human Rights Act

Article 8 – Right to respect for private and family life

‘Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence’

Human Rights Act

Article 10 – Freedom of Expression

‘Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.’

Human Rights Act

Article 10 (2) – Freedom of Expression

The exercise of these freedoms may be subject to legal restrictions to protect the reputation or rights of others

Human Rights Act

Article 10

Right to
freedom of
expression



Article 8

Right to
respect for
private and
family life

Human Rights Act

Courts say the right to freedom of
expression is paramount ...

Human Rights Act

‘There is no question of balancing freedom of speech against other interests. It is a trump card which always wins ...’

- Lord Justice Hoffman



EDITORS' CODE OF PRACTICE

6 *Children

- i) Young people should be free to complete their time at school without unnecessary intrusion.
- ii) A child under 16 must not be interviewed or photographed on issues involving their own or another child's welfare unless a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult consents.
- iii) Pupils must not be approached or photographed at school without the permission of the school authorities.
- iv) Minors must not be paid for material involving children's welfare, nor parents or guardians for material about their children or wards, unless it is clearly in the child's interest.
- v) Editors must not use the fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life.

EDITORS' CODE OF PRACTICE

THE PUBLIC INTEREST

There may be exceptions to the clauses marked * where they can be demonstrated to be in the public interest.

1. The public interest includes, but is not confined to:
 - i) Detecting or exposing crime or serious impropriety.
 - ii) Protecting public health and safety.
 - iii) Preventing the public from being misled by an action or statement of an individual or organisation.
2. There is a public interest in freedom of expression itself.
3. Whenever the public interest is invoked, the PCC will require editors to demonstrate fully that they reasonably believed that publication, or journalistic activity undertaken with a view to publication, would be in the public interest.
4. The PCC will consider the extent to which material is already in the public domain, or will become so.
5. In cases involving children under 16, editors must demonstrate an exceptional public interest to over-ride the normally paramount interest of the child.

14/11/2011

The image is a composite graphic. On the left side, there is a vertical stack of several newspapers, with the top one being the Peterborough Telegraph. The main part of the image is a screenshot of the newspaper's website. The website header includes the logo 'The Peterborough Telegraph' and the URL 'PeterboroughToday.co.uk'. Navigation tabs for 'News', 'Sport', 'Lifestyle', and 'Community' are visible. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the navigation, there are several news articles. The first article is titled 'Volcano ash delays businessmen's flight' and includes a small photo of a man. The second article is 'Water chiefs will not ban hosepipes' and the third is 'Councillor defends Peterborough pot service'. To the right of the news articles, there is a sidebar with a 'WIN tickets to Post's play-off final trip to Old Trafford' banner, a search bar, and a 'Check my speed' button. Below the sidebar, there are sections for 'Most comments' and 'Most shared'. In the bottom right corner of the website screenshot, there is a stylized 'JP' logo. In the foreground, overlapping the bottom right of the website screenshot, is an iPhone displaying the mobile version of the website. The iPhone screen shows the 'Standard Echo' logo and a search bar. The background of the entire image is a light, textured surface.