

NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND AND THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN



Office of the Press Council of Ireland
and Press Ombudsman

1, 2 & 3 Westmoreland Street
Dublin 2

Telephone: Lo-call 1890 208 080

Fax: 01-6740046

info@presscouncil.ie

info@pressombudsman.ie

WELCOME

**Inside this
issue:**

Welcome 1

**Forthcoming
Events** 2

**Decisions of
Press
Ombudsman
and Press
Council** 3

**Conciliated
Cases** 4

**Looking For-
ward to 2009** 5

Welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter for the Press Council of Ireland and the Press Ombudsman.

Having been established in January of this year, we have had a very busy first year of operations, and are very happy to share news of our progress and activities with you. We offer a quick, fair and free method of resolving complaints about newspapers and periodicals that involve a possible breach of the Code of Practice. This Newsletter is intended to be a brief introduction to our recent activities, highlighting what we consider to be important aspects of the work of both the Press Council of Ireland and the Office of the Press Ombudsman, with links to decisions and further information.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone (including any organisation) you feel may be interested in it. If any of your contacts would like to be added to our mailing list, they can contact us at info@pressombudsman.ie.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Public meeting on Suicide and the Press Wednesday, 3 December 2008, Portlaoise.

The Press Council of Ireland will host a public meeting on suicide and the press in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, at 8 pm on Wednesday, 3 December. All are welcome.

This meeting follows a public advertisement by the Press Council requesting submissions on issues connected with the reporting of suicide and related matters in newspapers and periodicals. A discussion document based on these submissions will be published in advance of the December meeting. A copy of this discussion document is available by contacting the office at 01-6489130, email: info@pressombudsman.ie

Speakers at the meeting will include:

Mr Dave O'Connell, Managing Editor, Connaught Tribune

Dr John Connolly, Secretary, Irish Association of Suicidology

Ms Rita Ann Higgins, poet

Chair: Dr Mary Kotsonouris, Press Council of Ireland

DECISIONS OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN AND PRESS COUNCIL



All decisions of the Press Ombudsman and Press Council are on our websites www.pressombudsman.ie and www.presscouncil.ie

Some recent decisions of the Press Ombudsman and Press Council are below. Where decisions of the Press Ombudsman have been appealed to the Press Council, a link at the bottom of the Press Ombudsman's decision will allow you to view the Press Council's decision.

McArdles' Test Centre and the Irish Daily Mail

The Press Ombudsman decided that sufficient remedial action was offered by the Irish Daily Mail in response to a complaint about the reporting of a court case in which McArdles' Test Centre Ltd. was a defendant. The complaint related to the coverage by the newspaper of the final day of a court hearing relating to the Navan bus crash, and of the judge's decision to withdraw the charges in the case from the jury.

For full decision click [here](#)

O'Donoghue and the Sunday Independent

The Press Ombudsman decided to uphold a complaint by Mr Ray O'Donoghue about an article and a photograph of his son, Wayne, published by the newspaper which he believed were misleading.

For full decision click [here](#)

St Vincent's Healthcare Group Ltd. and the Irish Daily Star

The Press Ombudsman decided not to uphold a complaint by the Chief Executive Officer of St Vincent's Healthcare Group about a complaint in relation to an article that reported an interview with the widow of a man who refused to sanction VHI payments in respect of her late husband's hospital bill.

For full decision click [here](#)

Complainants and the Irish Independent

The Press Council upheld a complaint in relation to an article entitled "Africa is giving nothing to anyone—apart from AIDS". This case was referred to the Press Council by the Press Ombudsman under the Articles of Association, which give him discretion to refer some complex or significant cases to the Press Council for decision.

For full decision click [here](#)



CONCILIATED CASES

Not all complaints are decided upon by the Press Ombudsman. Some are successfully conciliated between the complainant and the newspaper concerned. The most recent conciliated cases are as follows:

A family and the Carlow Nationalist

Complaint

A husband and wife complained about the publication of their names and their children's names and their full address by the newspaper following an incident in which they were the victims of criminal activity.

Resolution

The complaint was resolved when the newspaper deleted the article from its website and from Google's cached pages.

A company and the Irish Sunday Mirror

Complaint

A company complained that an article published by the newspaper alleged that its website was owned by a former director of the company who no longer had any involvement with the business.

Resolution

The newspaper had, in response to a direct complaint from the company some weeks prior to its approach to the Office of the Press Ombudsman, immediately deleted the article from its website and marked its cuttings library accordingly. When the complainant searched the internet some weeks later she accessed the article on an external website. On receipt of this further complaint the newspaper immediately undertook to contact the website in question, and the complainant accepted that the newspaper had done everything within its power to have the article deleted from all external websites.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2009

Outreach Activities

We will continue our outreach programme in 2009, hosting an information stand at a number of trade shows, speaking at events and responding to requests to provide a speaker from interested organisations.

We can supply individuals and organisations interested in our work with bulk copies of explanatory leaflets, copies of the Code of Practice, and other documentation that may be available from time to time. Please email us with any requests to info@pressombudsman.ie

First Annual Report

The first Annual Report of the Press Council of Ireland and the Press Ombudsman will be published in the first quarter of the new year. This report will give a comprehensive outline of our work during our first year in operation.

First Annual General Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting of the Press Council of Ireland will also take place in the first quarter of the new year. All member publications (a list of which can be found at www.presscouncil.ie) will be eligible to attend.

Feedback

Please do not hesitate to let us have feedback on anything contained in this newsletter, or on anything else that you feel may be useful to us.
