

Society of Editors

[www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

fighting for media freedom

# Annual Report

# 2014/ 15



# Society of Editors

[www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

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The Society of Editors was formed by a merger of the Guild of Editors and the Association of British Editors in April 1999.

Its members are editors, managing editors, editorial directors, training editors, editors-in-chief and deputy editors in national, regional and local newspapers, magazines, radio, television and online media, media lawyers and academics in journalism education.

They are as different as the publications, programmes and websites they create and the communities and audiences they serve.

But they share the values that matter:

- The universal right to freedom of expression
- The importance of the vitality of the news media in a democratic society
- The promotion of press and broadcasting freedom and the public's right to know
- The commitment to high editorial standards

These values give the Society the integrity and authority to influence debate on press and broadcasting freedom, ethics and the culture and business of news media.

To keep up to date with the society's work visit our website  
[www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

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## President's Report

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It's always excellent when you have a good story to tell. No, I'm not talking about the exposing of a coke-sniffing Lord, the World Cup cash scandal or the 62p-an-hour feminist T-shirts – as good as all these exclusives were.

I'm talking about our story. The one about how the Press industry pulled itself back from the brink, walked out of the last chance saloon and began to look like a winner. Yes, it's been quite a year.

It was always going to be a difficult one. The 2014 Society of Editors conference, aptly entitled Full Steam Ahead, set the agenda.

My predecessor Ian Murray told the conference in Southampton that in a period in which the freedom of the media had seen threats from both government bodies and European legislators, it was fitting to remember that our country was seen as a benchmark by those further afield who did not have the same freedoms as we enjoyed.

He highlighted the necessity of fighting for media freedom on behalf of others, and spoke of our duty to resist attempts to shackle an industry in a country that had always fought for freedom of speech.

I now echo Ian's sentiments and say that the work of the Society has never been more important.

In the 2014 Society of Editors Lecture, Sir Alan Moses set out

his hopes as chairman of the Independent Press Standards Organisation. He said IPSO would never be able to please everyone and it must be allowed to do its job and time would tell whether it had earned the trust of the public.

The former Court of Appeal judge went on to say that IPSO was there to maintain standards and support the industry rather than threaten it. His words echoed the thoughts of many of those sitting in front of him: "We do not want a boring defensive Press: we want a free, fair and unruly Press ruled only by an independent regulator which will support you and encourage you to remain so."

There was no danger of anything other than this happening, I am delighted to say.

The Society of Editors' Press Awards for national newspapers in March reflected the brilliance and dedication of a vigilant free Press. The shortlist for the Newspaper of the Year – from the Times's unrelenting exposure and coverage of the Rotherham scandal to the Mail on Sunday's scoop on the sweat shops making feminist T-shirts – was a roll call demonstrating the importance of British journalism.

In the wider industry, journalists have shown they are a match for the public's insatiable appetite for all digital platforms. Expansion and retraining for innovative apps, tablets and online delivery of news and entertainment has stormed ahead.

The Society of Editors has and will maintain the fight against

all-comers for media freedom. We can be proud that the Society has played an important role in all the key debates and major issues from IPSO to RIPA. We will continue to fulfil our central task of defending the freedom of all sectors of the media and championing the public's right to know.

But we are also adjusting our sights to helping the industry to maintain and search out new audiences and commercial viability. The Business of News is the theme for this year's annual conference. We hope that the speakers and sessions will help focus on the challenges that are ahead.

The Society is continuing with "The Way Forward" review of our operation taking account of today's broader industry embracing digital expansion. We will be talking to Society members about how we can attract and meet the needs of a new generation of editors who are enhancing the industry with new thinking on new platforms.

We are all used to telling a good story to a deadline. We have a great story and I am hoping that we will be able to work fast to expand our membership and extend the scope of the Society of Editors to reflect the changing face of the media. It would be excellent to have this in place by our next conference. No pressure there, then.

Let's give all our support to Nick Turner, our President for 2015-16, a digital champion in his day job, and wish him well in an important year.

**Doug Wills**  
**President, Society of Editors**  
**Managing Editor, London Evening Standard and**  
**Independent titles**







## Director's Report

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To paraphrase Churchill, last year was not the end, nor the beginning of the end, but it was perhaps the end of the beginning.

At the end of Ian Murray's year as president he reminded us of the battles for media freedom that had still to be fought and won.

He had presided over the Society through another difficult year as enemies of a free, unfettered Press waited for juries to proclaim the guilt of a group of journalists and, by implication, the whole of the trade. It was a time when we sometimes had to bite our tongues while still reminding the public that the UK Press and wider media remained the best in the world.

As it happened, and as some had predicted from the outset, the random dozens of independent-minded jurors displayed a less jaundiced view of journalists and particularly the papers that are read by millions.

During four years where journalists were sitting in the stocks, if not the dock, the vested interests and woefully ill-informed ranks of those who look down their noses at the media, and especially popular newspapers, ought to be wondering just what they have done.

The courts have decided that while there was a tiny minority of criminally guilty journalists, there were no great conspiracies acting against the interest of the public. Yes, there is a new, more powerful regulator. Journalists across the media have

had to ask questions of themselves, but did the industry, and especially the individuals whose lives were put on hold by ill-advised prosecutions, deserve the pain and the damage?

The serious concern is that the media has been weakened in its vital task of holding power to account. How many stories were not published or broadcast while the Press was on trial? How can we ensure the media wins back its freedom from political and police interference, and maintains its vociferous and sometimes unruly reputation for fearless reporting and exposure of wrongs?

At our 2014 conference the then Culture Secretary, Sajid Javid, supported our cry that legislation introduced to fight serious crime should only ever be used for the purpose for which it was intended. His comments came in the wake of police use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act to obtain journalists' sources, and he used the opportunity to promise new protections for a free press in a British Bill of Rights. Javid said the principle of journalists' sources remaining anonymous was "sacrosanct" and, reflecting earlier conference debate, added RIPA had been used "in a manner for which it was never intended".

He went on to say anonymity of sources was the bedrock of investigative journalism, and that without the Press holding public officials and those in power to account, the "corrupt and the crooked sleep easier in their beds".

We hope his successor, John Whittingdale, with whom we

have worked as long-time chairman of the DCMS Select Committee, will be able to convince his Cabinet colleagues to redeem those promises.

At the Southampton conference, the relationship between the police and the media was high on the agenda. Delegates heard from the then ACPO media chairman, Chief Constable of Bedfordshire, Colette Paul, about her support for improved communications between the press and the police. She added it was essential to have open, honest and transparent relationships, and stressed the need to develop a mutual trust and respect for one another.

That was a welcome first step, but we are still striving to introduce common sense into new police communications guidelines that we hope will be a first step to normalising relationships for the benefit of the media, the police themselves and, above all, the public.

Two Society of Editors fellowships were presented to worthy recipients who have made a substantial or special contribution to the objectives of the Society. Peter Cole, Emeritus Professor of Journalism at Sheffield University was honoured alongside the Venerable David Meara, who during his 14 years as Rector, grew St Bride's links with the newspaper and wider media industry.

The conference once again topped a distinguished year of campaigning for the Society under the leadership of President Ian Murray. Handing over the reins to incoming President Doug Wills, he said that in the year to come he expected the Society's work would be more vital than ever before. He was not wrong.

Local and regional editors had their own one-day seminar in Manchester organised by Richard Catlow and Peter Cole. Keynote speaker was Ashley Highfield, chief executive of Johnston Press, who urged regional and local publishers to combine their efforts to counter competition from outside the sector. Delegates were also briefed on the nationwide anti-terrorism campaign.

The National Press Awards, hosted by LBC's Nick Ferrari at the Marriott, Grosvenor Square, once again celebrated the

best of national newspaper journalism during 2014. We are always grateful for the support of EY, Google, Gorkana, HW Fisher, JTI, L'Oreal, Luther Pendragon, Unison, Wiggin, Reuters, the Press Association and, of course, Camelot, which has supported the Society since 2001.

The Regional Press Awards, also hosted by Ferrari at the same venue, continue to champion the work of the local and regional press. There was some unplanned drama at this year's event thanks to a fire alarm that sent guests fleeing into a nearby square and briefly to the neighbouring Grosvenor House hotel. Sunshine and champagne added to the occasion and thanks to the efforts of the hotel and the London Fire Brigade, the awards recommenced shortly afterwards. Our thanks go to UK Power Networks, ABC, ASDA, Foot Anstey, Gorkana, JTI, HoldtheFrontPage and the Press Association without whose support the awards could not happen.

We could not work effectively without the support of our board members. Neil Benson, Editorial Director at Trinity Mirror, stepped aside and we are grateful for his support over the years. The Society will continue to seek his expert advice. We welcomed Joy Yates, editorial chief of Johnston Press titles in the North East, and Alison Gow, Digital Innovations Editor at Trinity Mirror Regionals. Their nominations were approved at the Society's annual general meeting, and they have already proved themselves to be welcome additions.

Santha Rasaiah and the team at the News Media Association, John Battle and the Media Lawyers' Association continue to help ensure our campaigning is focused. Anthony Longden continues to offer his expert advice as and when it is needed, and Peter Cole worked tirelessly to write a report on online moderation that was launched in the House of Commons.

Lyn Disley, Paul Foulsham and their colleagues at Magstar become ever more integrated into the small but highly effective Society of Editors' team of Claire Meadows and Angela Varley. Their contributions are key to the delivery of the awards programmes, conference and management and advice on all of the projects we undertake.

**Bob Satchwell**  
**Executive Director**

## Parliamentary and Legal Committee Report

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Four years, a public inquiry, countless arrests and significantly fewer prosecutions later, and the industry is still feeling the domino effect of the phone hacking revelations that came to the public consciousness in 2011.

Last year, many of those charged under operations set up in the wake of the phone hacking scandal finally had their day in court. For many this came several years after they had been arrested, years in which they had lingered on police bail without charge or on court bail. Either way, professional and family lives were disrupted. For those who still retained a job and were suspended, this was a prolonged period in which they were unable to work. Justice delayed continued to be justice denied.

What many, including the Crown Prosecution Service, expected were dramatic revelations of criminal wrongdoing on an industrial scale and no doubt an influx of holidays at the behest of Her Majesty's Pleasure. The reality was a host of acquittals, by random selections of the public who could see no criminality, and a major embarrassment for the police and CPS. Jurors are the final arbiters of the public interest in such cases.

Operation Elveden, the £20m investigation into journalists and their sources that began three years ago, was a fiasco from start to finish. Of the 27 journalists charged, just two have been convicted. Many understandably questioned the logic behind heavy-handed, intimidatory dawn arrests and pursuit of the charges in the first place.

Juries, ordinary members of the public, concluded that in

the majority of cases, no actual wrongdoing on the part of journalists had occurred. So much for the statement by Sue Akers, the deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan police, who in 2012 told the Leveson Inquiry that her officers had uncovered a “culture of illegal payments.”

Nevertheless, despite trial after trial ending in acquittals and an ongoing headache for the police and CPS in the wake of widespread public criticism, they persisted on bringing these cases to court and, where the jury failed to reach a verdict, insisted on retrials. Extensive condemnation fell on deaf ears. It was with a sigh of relief that in March 2015 the Director of Public Prosecutions abandoned the future prosecutions of nine journalists. In a victory for common sense and the public purse, Alison Saunders finally threw in the towel.

The decision came after a ruling by the Court of Appeal earlier in the year questioning prosecutors' use of the charge of conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office – an ancient common-law offence – to pursue journalists. The ruling forced the CPS to review the remaining 12 pending trials and retrials of journalists. Better late than never – justice delayed was nonetheless justice served.

This was of little consolation for those who have had to live with this hanging over their heads for years. While the whole fiasco caused huge reputational damage to the British press, it undoubtedly caused even greater human cost to those journalists who faced prosecution. Not only were they treated like drug dealers and terrorists for offences which would have



carried shorter sentences than the time they spent awaiting trials, they spoke of the horrendous effect it had on themselves and their families. Hopefully they can now start to rebuild their lives and careers.

While the prosecution of journalists on dubious charges proved not only an affront to a country that hails its democratic tradition, it also highlighted the fast and loose approach police were taking to official guidelines on the use of police bail. Not only affecting journalists, a campaign by Westbourne Communications highlighted the fact that in December 2014, some 5,000 people had been held on police bail for more than six months. This was in direct violation of police guidelines which say bail should only be extended beyond a month under exceptional circumstances.

Recommendations from the Home Affairs Committee that said the onus should be on police to ensure they have enough evidence before arresting someone and a 28-day limit on bail must be adhered to unless in exceptional circumstances was therefore welcomed.

Less welcome was the recommendation that those suspected of sexual offences should have the same right to anonymity as the complainant until the time that they are charged. We must only look at the case of Stuart Hall to see the clear public interest in openness and transparency. The Society will remain vigilant and opposed to any attempts to implement this.

In a year in which police and media relations have sunk to an all-time low, nothing highlighted the extent to which the police continue to wilfully disregard the rights we have come to expect than the misuse of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. The discovery by Press Gazette that forces were using an Act intended to fight terrorism as a means to ride roughshod over the long-established principle of protecting journalists' sources rightly attracted widespread criticism.

For an industry that very rarely displays widespread agreement on a matter of public concern, it was unprecedented that more than 100 editors signed a letter from the Society to the Prime Minister, highlighting the sheer strength of feeling on the issue. As well as those from every national newspaper, the protest letter was also signed by editors representing most regional

newspaper groups, news agencies, magazines and broadcasters. Praise must be given to Press Gazette, which alongside the SoE and individual newspapers, campaigned on the issue, despite having its Freedom of Information requests deemed 'vexatious', 'annoying' and 'disruptive' by the Met Police. The persistence of Dominic Ponsford and his team in the face of constant stonewalling by officials illustrates exactly why the Press is a vital conduit to the public.

While we welcomed the government's eventual decision to back our calls for judicial oversight in cases where communications data is sought to determine the source of journalistic information and a law change has been enacted, we remain committed to ensuring the primary legislation promised before the General Election bears fruit in this Parliament. One of our ongoing concerns is that because applications for communications data will be made to telecoms providers, rather than the journalists themselves, news organisations do not currently have the opportunity to argue in court against police applications for disclosure.

The Society broadly welcomed an announcement by the former Culture Secretary, Sajid Javid, at our 2014 conference that a Conservative proposal for a British Bill of Rights would include specific protection for journalists and a free Press. This was announced shortly before the Chancellor pledged a consultation on business tax rate relief for local newspapers. We will examine any proposals and respond accordingly.

Following the publication in 2014 of guidelines on open justice and reporting restrictions in the criminal courts which the Society again worked on with the Judicial College, the News Media Association and the Media Lawyers' Association, we have lent our support to updated guidelines this year. They have been endorsed by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Lord Chief Justice, and are available on our website.

A review of the DA Notice system was published this year. It recommended that DA-Notices, which help the media preserve national security, should be re-named, reflecting their scope more closely. The media side welcomed the government's broad acceptance of the review, and its conclusion the DA Notice system remained valuable and relevant. We were, however, disappointed that the recommendation for the appointment

of an independent chairman for the committee overseeing the system was rejected by government.

Following allegations that police had misused the D-Notice system in previous years, I, as vice chair of the DPBAC as well as Chair of the SoE P&L Committee, wrote to Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe, asking for assurances officers had received adequate training and an understanding of the system. The Commissioner forwarded the letter to Deputy Assistant Commissioner Fiona Taylor in the Department for Professional Standards for her consideration.

We continue to be at the forefront of scrutinising legislation, and the parliamentary and legal committee continues to hold a number of meetings with government Ministers and officials. The Society has remained vocal on the need for politicians to oppose any attempts to implement a European-wide 'right to be forgotten' in data protection legislation, and this will continue. We met the Security and Immigration Minister, James Brokenshire, to express our concern regarding RIPA, and campaigned for greater openness with the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC, and the Chief Coroner, Judge Peter Thornton QC.

Following implementation of the long sought-after changes to libel law in 2014, the Society responded to a consultation by the Northern Ireland Law Commission calling for the provisions to be enacted in the province urgently. We supported detailed submissions by the Media Lawyers' Association and the News Media Association.

The Society has continued to attend a number of working parties organised by the BBC looking into how the corporation can work with local news providers for mutual benefit and has voiced support for the project.

Progress has been made regarding cameras in court. We strongly welcomed proposals put forward by Scotland's judges that certain aspects of court cases could soon be shown live on television. Their report recommended sentencing statements by judges and sheriffs could be shown and backed the idea of live tweeting by reporters in court. We will now work to ensure that under the new Justice Secretary, Michael Gove, further progress is made.

Following the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, the role of the media in reporting live events has come under scrutiny. We were asked by Specialist Operations at Scotland Yard to circulate to all media organisations a letter from the National Co-ordinator Protect and Prepare, Terrorism and Allied Matters, at the now replaced Association of Chief Police Officers. The letter gave points of contact for security advice. We are also helping to co-ordinate meetings between editors and New Scotland Yard for private background briefings from Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley, head of the counter-terrorism command.

Assistant Commissioner Rowley welcomed an invitation from the Society to meet editors to discuss the threat and the policing response. The hostage-taking in Paris and Australia has demonstrated how counter-terrorism activity also throws up issues for the media as well, and the Assistant Commissioner was keen to hear the perspective of senior editors to help inform how the police might engage with the media should an incident occur in the UK.

The Society continues to support the Campaign for Freedom of Information in rejecting any attempts by the Government to restrict the Act's scope or increase costs for requests.

The Society published a report on online moderation written by Peter Cole which was launched in the House of Commons. Funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, it was part of an attempt to tackle hate crime online.

As ever we are grateful to Santha Rasaiah and her colleagues at the News Media Association, the Media Lawyers' Association, and our committee members for their continued support. Our thanks must also go to my predecessor as chairman, Robin Esser, Executive Managing Editor of the Daily Mail, whose diligence at the helm of the committee over a number of years has contributed greatly to the success of the Society's campaigning work.

**Simon Bucks**  
**Chairman, Parliamentary and Legal Committee**  
**Chief Executive of SSVc**  
**Former Associate Editor, Sky News**



## Training Committee Report

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The modern editorial executive faces many challenges in a post-Leveson multi-media world.

They are expected to have the ability to lead different editorial disciplines, and have the management and commercial skills to handle fast-paced change.

And as commercial pressures bite, they need to balance the needs of rapidly diversifying news platforms and modern newsrooms with tighter budgets and often fewer resources.

In addition, they are responsible for media ethics and IPSO compliance, as well as having strong knowledge of media law.

In other trades or professions continued development, as opposed to experience through time served, is expected and necessary – why should it be any different for journalists? It is with this commitment that the Society has announced plans to look into providing a certificate for continued professional development for journalists. There is industry-wide recognition that there is a lack of formal and structured training for key executives to help them do their job more effectively.

The NCTJ's Journalists at Work research in 2012 found that for most journalists formal training ended after the point of entry or shortly afterwards. Access to advanced training seemed to decline rather than increase throughout an individual's career.

The SoE's objective will be to address a key skills gap by endorsing and validating CPD for senior editorial executives.

CPD is about the maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, as well as the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties throughout an individual's working life.

Post-Leveson, there is a greater need for the continued training of journalists whatever the stage in their career. Not only would it allow the individual to ensure they have the key skills that enable them to perform their job to the best of their ability, it would work well towards improving public confidence.

By promoting and encouraging CPD, the Society would be seen to be playing an active role in maintaining standards and assisting in industry training.

The SoE will offer a CPD certificate to all aspiring editors and editorial executives. Applicants would submit a brief portfolio of a minimum of 20 hours of CPD work over a year. This could include courses, peer discussions and conference attendance. They would be required to outline how they believe it had helped them do their job more effectively, and this would be validated by a panel of senior editors appointed by the SoE board.

The certificate would demonstrate to current and future employers the applicant's commitment and readiness to progress their career.

**Donald Martin**  
**Chairman, Training Committee**  
**Editor-in-chief, DC Thomson Newspapers**



## Honorary Treasurer's Report

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The audited accounts for 2014 show a loss of £66,000. This is an indication of the requirement for additional income to fund our campaigning activities and also a reflection of a significant “tidy-up” of accounts procedures and records.

When the budget was set, the Board was aware of the need for constant vigilance and a programme of activities to ensure accurate real-time monitoring was implemented. This successfully resulted in cost-cutting of more than £40,000 against budget. However income fell short of predictions by £74k.

The filed accounts also include substantial one-time write-offs of historic figures largely for membership income which did not materialise and should have been written off in previous years.

The real deficit against budget was in the region of £35,000. This loss resulted largely in the last quarter as a consequence of the Annual Conference not meeting the budgeted surplus and conference sponsorship being £24,000 lower than predicted. General sponsorship was also below budget by £8,967.

The year-end figure is not satisfactory and the Board has investigated the detail stringently. The overriding conclusion was that expenditure cannot be curtailed any further.

The financial reports do not reflect the import and continuing success of the organisation over the last year. It is essential that the Society does not become a martyr to the cause, putting all efforts into campaigning, training and lobbying on members' issues without appropriate financial support from members and

media groups. We will work harder to ensure that the industry understands the benefit of our activity and the need to fund it.

The net surplus (income less expenditure) generated on events in 2014 was £75k and other income received during the year (general sponsorship and membership) was £67K, bringing the total to £142K. However with the overall organisational running costs being £177K, the deficit is obvious.

The Society has not stood still financially. With the benefit of a clean slate and applying accruals of income that are accounted for in 2015, part way through the year the position is healthier. Members' funds, a rough indication of solvency, stood at £156k as of 31st January 2015.

Internal accounting practice continues to be scrutinised and improvements applied wherever possible. Proactive steps to promote the relevance of our work and the benefits of sponsorship and to widen membership are being implemented along with a call to action to existing members to recognise the importance and value of their support for the SoE.

There is no room for complacency, nor reason for panic. However there is a need to address the difference between income and expenditure to enable the Society to continue with its invaluable work on behalf of the industry.

**Moira Sleight**  
**Honorary Treasurer**  
**Editor, Methodist Recorder**

# Accounts

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**SOCIETY OF EDITORS  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
31 DECEMBER 2014**

This is an extract from the full company accounts which are available for inspection at the society’s office and on the website [www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org).

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activity of the company during the period was to represent newspaper editors and their counterparts in broadcasting as a professional association.

**DIRECTORS**

N Benson, S Bucks, P S Connolly, G M Dudman, C M Elliott, R C Esser, A S Gow, J D Grun, D Martin, I D Murray, B Phillips-Jones, S J Ryan, R E Satchwell, M R Sleight, N D Turner, F Unsworth, D Wills, J Yates.

**Company secretary** R E Satchwell

**Registered Number** 03047323

**Registered office** The University Centre  
Granta Place, Mill Lane  
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire  
CB2 1RU

**Independent Auditors** MHA MacIntyre Hudson  
Chartered Accountants  
& Statutory Auditors  
New Bridge Street House  
30-34 New Bridge Street  
London  
EC4V 6BJ

**DIRECTORS’ RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors’ report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company’s transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors’ report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company’s auditors are unaware, and
- That director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company’s auditors are aware of that information.



# PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

		2014	2013
	Note	£	£
<b>TURNOVER</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>366,061</b>	<b>396,991</b>
Administrative expenses		<u>(431,997)</u>	<u>(405,213)</u>
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(65,936)</b>	<b>(8,222)</b>
Interest receivable and similar income		<u>127</u>	<u>415</u>
<b>LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION</b>		<b>(65,809)</b>	<b>(7,807)</b>
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	<b>3</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(77)</b>
<b>LOSS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>8</b>	<b><u>(65,815)</u></b>	<b><u>(7,884)</u></b>

### SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

In preparing this report, the directors have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed by order of the directors

**R E Satchwell**  
Company Secretary

Approved by the directors

# BALANCE SHEET

## AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

			2014	2013
	Note	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	4		209	73
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	5	104,684		120,196
Cash at bank		55,237		82,199
		<u>159,921</u>		<u>202,395</u>
<b>CREDITORS:</b> amounts falling due within one year	6	(125,293)		(101,816)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			34,628	100,579
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>34,837</u>	<u>100,652</u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>				
Profit and loss account	8		34,837	100,652
			<u>34,837</u>	<u>100,652</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on

**R E Satchwell**  
Director

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

### 1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

### 2 OPERATING LOSS

The operating loss is stated after charging:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned by the company	153	259
Auditor's remuneration	6,666	4,928
	<u>6,666</u>	<u>4,928</u>

During the year, no director received any emoluments (2013 - £NIL).

### 3 TAXATION

	2014	2013
	£	£
<b>Analysis of tax charge in the year</b>		
UK corporation tax charge on loss for the year	-	77
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	6	-
<b>Tax on loss on ordinary activities</b>	<u>6</u>	<u>77</u>

### 4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment
	£
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 January 2014	13,313
Additions	289
At 31 December 2014	<u>13,602</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 January 2014	13,240
Charge for the year	153
At 31 December 2014	<u>13,393</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
At 31 December 2014	209
At 31 December 2013	<u>73</u>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

5	DEBTORS	2014	2013
		£	£
	Trade debtors	70,820	92,039
	VAT recoverable	-	4,278
	Other debtors	33,864	23,879
		<u>104,684</u>	<u>120,196</u>

6	CREDITORS	2014	2013
	Amounts falling due within one year	£	£
	Bank loans and overdrafts	-	1,639
	Trade creditors	28,166	58,070
	Corporation tax	-	77
	Other taxation and social security	1,509	-
	Other creditors	95,618	42,030
		<u>125,293</u>	<u>101,816</u>

## 7 COMPANY STATUS

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 for every full member, and 25 pence for every other member, towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

## 8 RESERVES

At 1 January 2014

Loss for the financial year

At 31 December 2014

Profit and loss account £
100,652
(65,815)
<u>34,837</u>

## 9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

R E Satchwell is a director of the company. During the year the company incurred consultancy fees and reimbursed expenses of £62,036 (2013: £56,210) from R E Satchwell.

S Ryan is a director of the company. During the year the company incurred consultancy and treasury fees of £5,000 (2013: £2,000) from S Ryan.

I D Murray is a director of the company. During the year the company reimbursed expenses of £230 (2013: NIL) from I D Murray

## DETAILED TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014 £	2013 £
<b>TURNOVER</b>		
Subscriptions	10,788	36,435
Conference income	321,021	299,295
Sponsorship	33,333	58,333
Book sales and other income	919	2,928
	<u>366,061</u>	<u>396,991</u>
	2014 £	2013 £
<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>		
National secretary	110,832	107,662
Rent and water rates	12,037	12,037
Insurance	2,867	4,748
Travel and subsistence	4,752	3,258
Telephone and internet expenses	6,429	6,846
Printing, stationery and postage	2,308	4,030
Sundry expenses	653	366
Conference expenses	254,877	234,430
Meeting expenses	-	716
Books and publications	3,659	4,431
Gifts and donations	9,487	10,735
Entertaining	-	606
Irrecoverable VAT expense	536	1,182
Legal and professional	11,301	3,593
Accountancy fees	4,021	4,503
Auditors' remuneration	6,666	4,928
Depreciation	153	259
Bank charges	1,419	883
	<u>431,997</u>	<u>405,213</u>
	2014 £	2013 £
<b>INTEREST RECEIVABLE</b>		
Bank interest receivable	<u>127</u>	<u>415</u>



# Society Profile

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## OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

- To defend and promote the freedom of the media and to champion the universal right to freedom of expression
- To represent members' interests in all matters of editorial and professional concern and interest
- To monitor legislation on matters affecting the news media either directly or indirectly and to make appropriate representations to parliaments, regional assemblies, the European Commission and Parliament and other organisations and authorities at all levels of public life
- To interpret legislation and advisory notices to other organisations
- To provide a forum for discussion of the practical problems of editorship and to promote the objectives of the Company
- To provide access to a network of professional contacts
- To offer advice to members on issues of practical and ethical concern and to support other bodies in promoting standards in journalism, the independence of the media and self-regulation
- To help improve the quality of journalism through the active support of education and training
- To represent the UK's senior journalists internationally, assisting editors abroad to establish independence and ethical standards.

## GOVERNING BODY

The Society is managed by a board of directors elected by the membership and administered by an executive director. An advisory council made up of senior figures in the industry offers advice and support.

## INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The Society has long-standing relationships with the CPU Media Trust (formerly the Commonwealth Press Union), WAN IFRA, the Global Editors' Network and ISWNE (International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors based in the USA.) Their David Greenslade Bursary enables a member to visit North America.

## COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

The Society's two standing committees – Parliamentary and Legal and Training – draw up policy guidelines and report to the board through the chairmen. Working parties and think tanks are set up as required. The Society welcomes any time that members can give to support its work. Society members serve on key industry bodies including the Editors' Code Committee, the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee, the National Council for the Training of Journalists, regional training advisory committees and the Journalism Diversity Fund.

The Society works closely with other industry organisations and the News Media Association and regulatory affairs team provides legal and research support.

The Society also co-operates with other organisations by briefing visiting groups of editors from around the world. The Society maintains links with the Government Information and Communications Service, the Association of Police Public Relations Officers, the Information Commissioner, the Policing College, the National Police Chiefs' Council and other public organisations. It frequently submits evidence and comment to Government consultations, to Parliamentary committees and the Competition Commission.

The Society has close working relationships with the Campaign for Freedom of Information, the London Press Club, the Media Society, the Journalists' Charity and the Media Trust. It works with other organisations such as the Samaritans, the Youth Media Agency, the Age Action Alliance and other lobbying groups.

# Society Officials

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**President**

Doug Wills

**Vice President**

Nick Turner

**Immediate Past President**

Ian Murray

**Treasurer**

Moira Sleight

**Chairman, Training Committee**

Donald Martin

**Chairman, Parliamentary and Legal Committee**

Simon Bucks

**Executive Director and Company Secretary**

Bob Satchwell

**Claire Meadows**

Research Officer



**Angela Varley**

Administrator



**Elena Gontarz**

Finance Officer



## MAGSTAR

Magstar Ltd supports the Society by organising its main events, including the annual conference, the National Press Awards, the Regional Press Awards and regional seminars. Its team is:



**Lyn Disley**

Communications  
Director



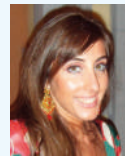
**Paul Foulsham**

Creative Director



**Robyn Honey**

General Manager



**Krizia Gallone**

Project Manager



**Olivia Disley-Stevens**

Marketing Project  
Coordinator



**Nigel Dzavakwa**

Graphic Designer

# Administration and Committees

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The income of the Society, whatever its source, must be applied solely in promoting the objects of the society.

## Board

Simon Bucks, Paul Connolly, Graham Dudman, Chris Elliott, Robin Esser, Jonathan Grun, Barrie Jones, Donald Martin, Ian Murray, Sue Ryan, Bob Satchwell, Moira Sleight, Nick Turner, Francesca Unsworth, Doug Wills, Alison Gow, Joy Yates.

## Advisory Council

Kevin Beatty, Robin Burgess, Paul Dacre, Paul Davidson, Simon Fox, Phil Harding, Adrian Jeakings, Clive Jones, Murdoch MacLennan, Chris Oakley, Richard Tait.

## Fellows

Ben Bradlee, Peter Cole, Andrew Colman, Edmund Curran, Geoff Elliott, Robin Esser, Phil Harding, David Meara, Bob Pinker, Peter Preston, Richard Tait.

## Past Presidents

Ian Murray, Jonathan Grun, Francesca Unsworth, Robin Esser, Donald Martin, Nigel Pickover, Simon Bucks, Paul Horrocks, Charles McGhee, Keith Sutton, Neil Benson, Jonathan Grun, Liz Page, Edmund Curran, Neil Fowler, Geoff Elliott.

## Training Committee

Chairman: Donald Martin

### MEMBERS

Simon Bucks, Joanne Butcher, Graham Dudman, Cathy Duncan, Robin Elias, Chris Elliott, Jonathan Grun, Tony Johnston, Marie Kinsey, Stephen Mitchell, David Rowell, Chris Rushton, Sue Ryan, Keith Stafford, Peter Cole, Donald Martin, Peter Sands, Richard Tait, Barrie Jones, Deidre O'Neill and Doug Wills.

## Parliamentary and Legal Committee

Chairman: Simon Bucks

### MEMBERS

John Battle, Ian Beales, Neil Benson, Guy Black, Peter Cole, Catherine Courtney, Edmund Curran, Mike Dodd, Chris Elliott, Robin Esser, Sarah Edmonds, Jonathan Grun, Phil Harding, Tony Jaffa, Anthony Longden, Marcus Partington, Charles McGhee, Doug Melloy, Ian Murray, Sue Oake, Pat Pilton, Peter Preston, Santha Rasaiah, Alan Rusbridger, David Jordon, Caroline Kean, Mary Russell, Sue Ryan, Bob Satchwell, John Spencer, Malcolm Starbrook, Keith Sutton, Hannah Walker, Simon Westrop, Doug Wills and Peter Wright.

**\* Board members can attend standing committees ex officio if they are not already members**

# THE SOCIETY IN THE REGIONS

Each member of the Society is assigned a region. They are given details of board members or other regional contacts for their region. Regional meetings are organised to meet the requirements of members in those regions, if they so wish.

## Regional Boundaries

### **EASTERN REGION**

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, North Essex and Kettering.  
Nigel Pickover, Editor-in-chief, Norwich Evening News & EDP, 01603 772401, [nigel.pickover@archant.co.uk](mailto:nigel.pickover@archant.co.uk).  
Society of Editors head office, Cambridge  
01223 304080, [office@societyofeditors.org](mailto:office@societyofeditors.org)

### **NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

Paul Connolly, 02890 264000  
[pconnolly@belfasttelegraph.co.uk](mailto:pconnolly@belfasttelegraph.co.uk)

### **LONDON & HOME COUNTIES**

Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Central London, Greater London, Surrey, Kent, West and East Sussex, Essex (South).  
Ms Moira Sleight, Managing Editor, Methodist Recorder, 020 7793 0033, [editorial@methodistrecorder.co.uk](mailto:editorial@methodistrecorder.co.uk)

### **MIDLANDS**

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Humberside south of River Humber, Peterborough, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Hereford and Worcester, West Midlands, Warwickshire, and Welshpool and Banbury.  
Neil White, Editor, Derby Telegraph, 01332 253 058  
[nwhite@derbytelegraph.co.uk](mailto:nwhite@derbytelegraph.co.uk)

### **NORTH WESTERN**

Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Leek.  
Nick Turner, Digital Strategy Manager, CN Group, 01228 612321, [nick.turner@cngroup.co.uk](mailto:nick.turner@cngroup.co.uk)  
Richard Catlow, [richardcatlow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richardcatlow@hotmail.co.uk)  
Ken Bennett, 01457 820494, [kd\\_bennett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kd_bennett@yahoo.co.uk)

### **NORTHERN**

Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland.  
Joy Yates, Group Editor, Johnston Press North East, [joy.yates@jpress.co.uk](mailto:joy.yates@jpress.co.uk)

### **SCOTLAND**

Scotland: Donald Martin, Editor, Sunday Post, 01382 575788, [dmartin@sundaypost.com](mailto:dmartin@sundaypost.com).  
Julian Calvert, Lecturer in Journalism, Glasgow Caledonian University, [julian.calvert@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:julian.calvert@gcal.ac.uk)

### **WALES**

Barrie Jones, Editorial Director, NWN Media  
01352 707721, [barrie.jones@nwn.co.uk](mailto:barrie.jones@nwn.co.uk)

### **WESSEX**

Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, parts of Somerset, Newbury, Reading, Salisbury and Wokingham.  
Ian Murray, Editor-in-Chief, The Southern Daily Echo, 02380 424777, [ian.murray@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:ian.murray@dailyecho.co.uk)

### **WESTERN**

Gloucestershire, Avon, parts of Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.  
Andy Cooper, Acting Editor, Cornwall Life, 01803 860910, [andy.cooper@archant.co.uk](mailto:andy.cooper@archant.co.uk)

### **YORKSHIRE**

South West and North Yorkshire, and Humberside north of River Humber.  
Peter Charlton, former Editorial Director, Yorkshire Post Newspapers, [Peter.Charlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Peter.Charlton@blueyonder.co.uk)

# SOCIETY OF EDITORS AGM

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## NOTICE OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER AT THE GRANGE, ST PAUL'S HOTEL IN LONDON.

Any full or deputy member who wishes to put a resolution or raise a matter under any other business should advise the executive director by Wednesday 14 October 2015. Full and deputy members are entitled to vote and qualified members may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his or her stead in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

A copy is available on the website [www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org) or from the executive director. To be valid a proxy must be received at the society office no later than on Wednesday 14 October 2015 or at The Grange, St Paul's hotel by 12 noon on Saturday 17 October 2015.

**R E Satchwell**  
**Executive Director and**  
**Company Secretary**

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## AGENDA

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1. President's opening remarks
  2. Apologies for absence
  3. MINUTES: To adopt, if approved, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 November 2014.
  4. ACCOUNTS: To receive and, if approved, adopt the accounts for the financial year up to 31 December 2014.
  5. ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15: To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report for 2014/15.
  6. To confirm the auditors.
  7. To record the thanks of the Society to retiring members of the board.
  8. To propose and elect new members of the board.
  9. To re-elect ordinary members of the board for a period of three years.
  10. To elect the chairman of the parliamentary and legal committee.
  11. To elect the chairman of the training committee.
  12. To elect the Treasurer.
  13. To note and approve the appointment of the Executive Director and Company Secretary.
  14. To elect the President for the year 2015-2016.
  15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place in the autumn of 2015 at a time and venue to be confirmed.
  16. Any other business.
- \* A full agenda for the AGM will be published in September and can be found at [www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)



Society of Editors

[www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

fighting for media freedom

For further information  
please contact:

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Email - [office@societyofeditors.org](mailto:office@societyofeditors.org)

Website - [www.societyofeditors.org](http://www.societyofeditors.org)

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