

THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO THE FULL STORY.

# Journalism Should Serve the Public, Not Control It.



Newspapers and online publications like Legal Futures, The Athletic, and the Law Society Gazette shape public opinion and influence lives. But **whose interests do they really serve?**



Journalism exists to inform, challenge, and empower the public — not to protect narratives or silence inconvenient truths.

## TOUGH QUESTIONS WE ALL DESERVE ANSWERS TO



### WHY IS THE PUBLIC NOT HEARD?

When members of the public come forward with information that contradicts published reports, why are their voices so often ignored?



### ONE-SIDED STORYTELLING?

Shouldn't public contributions be allowed to strengthen or weaken a story? Ignoring them risks creating a misleading narrative.



### INDEPENDENT OR CONTROLLED?

Are these publications independent, or are they influenced by hidden agendas, owners, or commercial interests?



### WHO CONTROLS THE NARRATIVE?

The public deserves to know who funds, owns, or influences the media they trust. Without transparency, trust cannot exist.



### SHOULD THERE BE ACCOUNTABILITY?

If concerns and stories are rejected, shouldn't the public know that — and the reason why? Silence is not journalism.

## WHAT RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM SHOULD LOOK LIKE



### TRANSPARENCY

Clearly disclose ownership, funding sources, and any potential conflicts of interest at the end of every article.



### FAIRNESS

Actively seek and consider all relevant sides, especially when serious allegations or conflicting accounts are raised.



### PUBLIC VOICE

Provide a fair opportunity for the public to respond, contribute, and challenge what has been reported.



### ACCOUNTABILITY

Maintain a public register of concerns raised that were not published — with clear reasons provided.



### TRUST

Earn credibility through openness, not control. A free press must be answerable to the public it serves.

### A PUBLIC REGISTER BUILDS PUBLIC TRUST

Every reputable publication should maintain an accessible register showing:

- ✓ Stories or concerns submitted by the public that conflicted with published content
- ✓ Date of submission
- ✓ Summary of the concern
- ✓ Decision made by the editor/publisher
- ✓ Reason for not publishing (if not published)
- ✓ Right of reply offered or declined (and why)



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A free press is not a license to control the truth. It is a duty to serve it.



### INFORM THE PUBLIC

Give the public the facts, not a filtered version.



### RESPECT THE PUBLIC

Respect the intelligence of your readers. Give them the full picture.



### ACCOUNT TO THE PUBLIC

Be open. Be honest. Be accountable. Always.

A better press creates a better society.

REAL JOURNALISM. REAL TRANSPARENCY. REAL TRUST. THE PUBLIC DESERVES NOTHING LESS.



Demand transparency. Demand accountability. Demand the truth.