

NEWS PROP 2.

From: Brian Doel ([REDACTED])
Sent: 26 April 2013 16:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response Form -Publicity Code Consultation
Attachments: Response_form_-_Publicity_Code_Consultation.doc; ATT537985.htm

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16/05/2013

Response form

Publicity Code Consultation 2013

About you

i) Your details

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Name: | Brian Doel |
| Position (if applicable) | Managing Director |
| Name of Organisation (if applicable) | Tindle Newspapers Limited |
| Address: | The Old Court House Union Road, Farnham Surrey GU9 7PT |
| e mail: | [REDACTED] |
| Telephone Number: | [REDACTED] |

ii) Are the views expressed on this consultation an official's response from the organisation you represent or your own personal views?

Organisational response

☒

Personal views

☐

iii) Please tick the box which best describes you or your organisation:

| | |
|---|---|
| District council | |
| Metropolitan district council | |
| London borough council | |
| Unitary authority/county council/county borough council | |
| Parish council | |
| Membership organisation | |
| Newspaper proprietor | X |
| Newspaper staff | |
| Business | |
| Councillor | |

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Member of the public | |
| Other | |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| (please comment): | |
|-------------------|--|

Questions:

1. Views on the proposed legislation are invited, and in particular do consultees see the proposals as fully delivering the commitment to give greater force to the Publicity Code by putting compliance on a statutory basis?

We, as consultees, believe that compliance should be on a statutory basis and that the proposals should be extended to stop councils from finding ways around the statutes.

2. If there is alternative to the power of direction, how will this meet the aim of improved enforcement of the code?
Any alternative will be ignored.

3. This consultation invites evidence of the circumstances where the code was not met and the implications of this on competition in local media

Hampshire County Council has found a way of circumventing the proposed legislation. To the detriment of all traditional newspapers in its area. It sourced the Hampshire Independent, a new free newspaper in Winchester which had a few thousand free copies going into Winchester, and gave it the contract for the public notices for the whole of the county, withdrawing them from the traditional paid-for newspapers which have circulated in the towns and cities of Hampshire for centuries.

The procurement team revels in the fact that it is publishing notices to the letter of the law – in a newspaper which circulates in the county – but defies the spirit of the law which would give public notice information to a broad spectrum of ratepayers.

The Council openly admits that the Independent does not cover the county but say that they will pay for free pick-up copies to be available in areas where there is a backlash against their decision.

The Council team openly admits it does not believe in local newspapers for public notices and this is their way of getting around the legislation.

Now Hampshire County Council has sold the idea to East Hampshire District Council which is emulating the county by withdrawing notices and revenue from the local press in their areas.

Thus Hampshire County Council flies in the face of what the Government is trying to do – and does so openly. It has found a way to publish and control a newspaper without openly publishing its own newspaper

The Ratepayers of Hampshire do not know nor read the Hampshire Independent as a matter of course. They look to their local papers which their public servants are denying the public notices and the revenue to the tune of hundreds of thousands of pounds a year.

Contact us by 6 May 2013

Download the [response form](#) and return it using the details provided below.

Write to us:

email

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post

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