

HACKED OFF

Job title: Communications Manager

Full time 1 year initially, based in central London

Deadline for Applications: 5pm, 31st July 2014

CV and covering letter should be sent to jobs@hackinginquiry.org

Interviews are expected to take place in the week beginning 11th August 2014

Salary: Negotiable depending on experience; competitive for an outstanding candidate

Other: We offer a salary sacrifice scheme for childcare vouchers.

About Hacked Off

Hacked Off campaigns for a free and accountable press. Established in 2011, in the wake of the phone hacking scandal, it has become an influential movement for change in UK press regulation policy. It is a dynamic and successful campaign which enjoys broad support from the public, civil society groups, journalists, politicians and most importantly, victims of press abuse. By shining a light on the corrupt practices and vested interests of the big newspaper groups, Hacked Off are often under attack from the very same. We work closely with, and have the support of, many victims of press abuses – some of whom have had to endure phone and computer hacking, libel, intrusion into grief and/or privacy, and discrimination on top of personal tragedies.

Over the last two years, Hacked Off successfully:

- Campaigned for the independent inquiry into press abuses – the Leveson Inquiry
- Helped draft The Royal Charter on press self-regulation, working with all the major political parties to secure cross-party agreement
- Continued to keep the issue in the public eye and give a voice to the victims of press abuse.

Hacked Off is now working for the implementation of the cross-party Royal Charter system which supports the continuation of press self-regulation but creates an independent audit body (a “Recognition Panel”) to check that any press self-regulator is both effective and independent from the newspapers which it purports to regulate. We and our supporters want to ensure that the public are better protected against unscrupulous press practices in the future, and are provided with affordable, fair and straightforward redress when things go wrong.

The next phase of our campaign will include:

- Campaigning for press self-regulation in line with Lord Justice Leveson’s recommendations and as agreed in the cross-party Royal Charter
- Campaigning for the implementation of the other Leveson recommendations concerning the relationship between the press and politicians, the press and police, and data protection
- Exposing the failings of the newspaper industry’s own regulatory system (PCC/IPSO), and
- Working with victims of press abuses and civil society groups to highlight and tackle ongoing press abuses.

Summary of role

The Communications Manager is responsible for communications and media relations strategy, acting as the first point of contact and managing the day-to-day profile of the campaign.

Working closely with the Executive Director and Associate Director - both of whom have established links with the media - this is a challenging role for an exceptional and flexible individual.

The Communications Manager is responsible for ensuring that the voices of victims of press abuse are heard above the megaphone of the newspaper industry lobby, across both traditional and digital channels including Hacked Off’s social media presence.

Strong writing skills and the ability to grasp complex information quickly are crucial – the successful applicant will be expected to ‘get up to speed’ with the complexities of press self-regulation, and hit the ground running taking

charge of news releases, quotes, reacting to breaking stories, media enquiries and blogs.

The role incorporates responsibility for crisis management, in conjunction with other senior staff, and requires a mature, robust approach to handling controversial issues and strong personalities.

The post reports to the Executive Director and can draw on the support of two research and campaign officers who provide general support to all elements of the campaign.

Key responsibilities

- Creating and executing communications / media strategies.
- Managing proactive and reactive media relations across national broadcast and print media, regional media, trade and online.
- Maintaining regular high-level contact with producers, presenters, editors and reporters covering politics, media, law and regulation.
- Writing, distributing and placing news releases, photography and videos.
- Writing and placing comment pieces, letters and quotes, frequently in response to rapidly breaking stories.
- Media monitoring and rapid rebuttal of opponents' arguments.
- Liaising with colleagues, key spokespeople, victims of press harassment and intrusion and partner civil society organisations on communications matters.
- Organising and, where necessary, delivering briefings for media and other key interests.
- Providing media training for interviewees as required.
- Creating and editing news and comment, videos, infographics and other content for the Hacked Off website.
- Managing Hacked Off's social media channels – including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Google+ and others.

- Devising and coordinating press conferences, briefings, and video / photo opportunities.
- Assisting supporters to engage with specific media proactively or as rebuttal.
- Overall responsibility for the website.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Essential and desirable qualities

Detailed below are the types of qualifications, experience, skills and knowledge which are required.

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
A degree or equivalent work experience	√	
Experience		
At least 5 years of relevant media relations experience in a busy and high-profile environment, ideally in politics, campaigns, NGO, regulatory or equivalent	√	
Dealing with hostile press	√	
Experience of working in a high pressured environment	√	
Experience of dealing with sensitive issues in a campaign context	√	
Knowledge		
Understanding of and commitment	√	

to the aims of Hacked Off		
Knowledge of the Leveson Inquiry and press self-regulation		√
Existing relevant contacts in broadcast, press and news media industry	√	
Skills		
Excellent written communication skills – ability to write clearly for a range of audiences	√	
Excellent oral communication skills – ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals	√	
High level of IT literacy – working knowledge of social media, blogs	√	
A proven ability to exercise good judgement under pressure	√	
Proven ability to be pro-active as well as reactive and lead on communications issues	√	
Additional attributes		
A robust approach to hostility from some newspapers	√	
Clear understanding of the need for confidentiality	√	