

Media Law and Ethics



Course outline

Course Tutor:

FIONA DAVIDSON

This media law and ethics course will be delivered by Fiona Davidson, (LLB (Hons), Dip Legal Practice) a qualified solicitor who spent many years working as a freelance journalist and a former assistant organiser with NUJ Scotland.

Course Content:

Introduction

- The role of the NUJ for journalists and journalism
- How it affects media law
- The NUJ Code of Conduct

Newsgathering – understanding sources of information and potential pitfalls

- Data Protection Act
- Freedom of Information/ Freedom of Information (Scotland) Acts

Dangers for Journalists, including

- Defamation – including the new draft Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill
- Contempt of Court
- Copyright Infringement – including use of images, fair dealing, status of contributed articles
- Breach of Privacy/Confidence

Court Reporting

- Access and restrictions
- What not to report

Protecting Privacy and Confidence

- What is private/reasonable expectation of privacy
- The Law of Confidence

Protecting Your Position

- Headings for Checklist to maintain audit trail

Leveson – where are we now?

- Discussion of the latest position re media regulation
- Scotland situation

Responsible Reporting Guidelines/Ethical Issues

- Useful guidance on appropriate terminology for specific situations/groups
- Reporting mental health/suicide; race reporting/travellers; disability

Course costs **£95 for NUJ members** and places can be booked by contacting joanm@nuj.org.uk