

## **Response to the Editors' Code Review**

### **1. About IPSO**

The Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) is the independent regulator of the majority of the newspaper and magazine industry in the UK. We regulate over 1,500 print and 1,100 online titles, comprising 95% of national daily newspapers (by circulation) and most local and regional newspapers, including online versions.

IPSO applies and enforces the Code. As part of their legally binding, contractual agreements with us, publishers regulated by IPSO agree to follow the Code and hold themselves accountable to an independent regulator.

Our Chair and Chief Executive sit on the Editors' Code of Practice Committee. In addition, the Code cannot be changed without IPSO's agreement. As a result, IPSO is crucial to any discussion of changes to the Code.

### **2. About our response**

IPSO's response to this consultation has been shaped by our experience applying the Code, evidence and data from our complaints and standards functions, and comments from our Board, Complaints Committee, journalist and reader advisory panels, as well as engagement with external stakeholders.

### **3. Commentary**

As part of our regulatory work, IPSO collects data from complaints and carries out wide monitoring of the media landscape and engagement with stakeholders and groups through our standards function.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that the monitoring undertaken by IPSO's standards function should form part of the evidence base used by the Committee when considering responses and any potential Code changes.

We would like, in particular, to draw the Committee's attention to the quarterly data on complaints received under Clause 12, given the interest in this clause in previous consultations, and in how IPSO handles complaints about discrimination more generally.<sup>2</sup> The Committee may also find our thematic monitoring of wider editorial standards issues of interest.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.ipso.co.uk/monitoring/>

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www.ipso.co.uk/monitoring/clause-12-monitoring/>

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://www.ipso.co.uk/monitoring/editorial-standards-monitoring/>

We would be pleased to make our monitoring and data available to the Committee to aid its considerations and where applicable, to support its analysis of other submissions to this consultation.

IPSO does not have specific proposals for changes to the Code at this stage. However, we are keen to work with, and as part of, the Editors' Code Committee, to analyse the evidence and feedback from the consultation and may review our position in the light of this.

#### **4. Information on wider stakeholder engagement**

During the course of our regulatory work, IPSO engages with many stakeholders interested in the reporting of particular topics and how the Code applies. Examples in the past year include, but are not limited to, the reporting of extremism, coverage of religion, reporting of children, reporting around survivors of sexual abuse, and the reporting of domestic abuse.

While it is not for IPSO to make representations on behalf of these stakeholders, we have strongly encouraged them to submit their own responses to this consultation.

#### **5. Further information**

For further information on this response, please contact:

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