Quarterly analysis of standards themes arising

Themes between October and December 2022

| **Theme** | **Issues arising** | **Actions by IPSO in response** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Privacy | Breach of a man’s privacy through publication of medical information.  Complaint about publication of a “prank video” showing alleged drug taking was not upheld. | Complaints about a potential breach of privacy are actively monitored.  IPSO’s training newsletter for its member publications for May was on the subject of privacy. |
| Inaccurate headlines | Two publications misrepresented a woman’s comments about the cost of living in article headlines.  Inaccurate description of a man as a stalker in the headline of a court report.  Inaccurate report that a man had advocated armed violence.  Inaccurate claim in a headline that two thirds of asylum seekers who claimed to be children were over 18. | These issues will be monitored to ensure that there are not consistent failures in such processes.  IPSO’s publisher newsletter for its member publications in July was on the subject of headlines. |
| Social media | Complaint not upheld where a publication could prove that a complainant’s social media platforms were publicly viewable.  Complaint about photographs of a car accident not upheld as information was voluntarily put into the public domain on social media and did not show anything private. | IPSO published revised guidance for journalists on the use of social media in 2022. <https://www.ipso.co.uk/resources-and-guidance/social-media-guidance/>  Information for the public on how journalists use social media is available. <https://www.ipso.co.uk/media/1517/social-media-public_v4.pdf> |
| Accuracy | A complaint about a reader’s letter which denied man-made climate change, was not upheld as this was clearly distinguished as a personal opinion.  Complaint about a woman’s account of being sexually harassed by a named individual not upheld. | These complaints are closely monitored. |
| Welfare of children | Failure to remove a comment which named someone under 18 who had been charged with an offence. | IPSO has information for the public on reporting on children. <https://www.ipso.co.uk/media/1967/children-pub-info-v4.pdf>  Training sessions for journalists and editors include reporting on children. |