

Quarterly analysis of standards themes arising

Themes between October and December 2020

Theme	Issues arising	Actions by IPSO in response
Confidential sources	<p>A man who had been promised anonymity by a journalist was named in an article. Complaint was upheld and an adjudication published.</p> <p>A regional newspaper breached a woman's identity after she had requested anonymity. Complaint was upheld and an adjudication published.</p>	Prior to these two complaints, complaints of this nature had been rare. These will be monitored closely to look for evidence of a concerning pattern.
Reporting on the coronavirus pandemic	<p>Two misleading reports in different publications about coronavirus cases originating in Pakistan. Complaints were upheld and corrections published.</p> <p>Inaccurate reports of people not socially distancing in two separate articles. Complaints were upheld and corrections published.</p> <p>Three publications inaccurately reported on people travelling during coronavirus restrictions. Complaints were upheld and corrections published.</p> <p>Inaccurate report about Covid-19 research. Complaint resolved through IPSO mediation.</p>	Complaints about the coronavirus pandemic are being actively monitored. Case studies of all IPSO's rulings and resolutions in relation to the reporting of coronavirus are now published on the IPSO website.
Reporting of suicide and deaths	Third-party complaint about an online article which included a video of a woman involved in an act of suicide. The video has now been removed.	IPSO has published guidance for journalists on the reporting of suicide. Reporting of suicide is also incorporated into broader training for newsrooms on the Editors' Code of Practice.

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	<p>Third party complaints about potentially excessive details within two separate inquest reports about different people.</p> <p>Online article included footage showing someone being shot. Complaint made by a third party.</p>	<p>IPSO has published guidance for journalists on reporting deaths and inquests. Reporting of deaths is also incorporated into broader training for newsrooms on the Editors' Code of Practice.</p>
Privacy	<p>Inaccurate and sensitive medical information published without consent. Complaint was upheld and an adjudication published.</p> <p>Complaint about a breach of privacy and harassment. Complaint not upheld.</p>	<p>Complaints about a potential breach of privacy are actively monitored.</p>
Statistics	<p>Four publications inaccurately reported the findings of a poll. Complaints were resolved directly or through mediation by IPSO.</p>	<p>Complaints of this nature continue to be monitored</p>