

Quarterly analysis of standards themes arising

Themes between January and March 2021

Theme	Issues arising	Actions by IPSO in response
Reporting of crime	Two upheld complaints in which somebody who was not relevant to a report about a crime was photographed.	Upheld complaints under Clause 9 (Reporting of crime) are relatively rare. These will be monitored closely to look for evidence of a concerning pattern.
Reporting of coronavirus	Upheld complaint about a front-page article which claimed that deaths from causes other than coronavirus had risen sharply during the previous six months. Two upheld complaints about claims made in opinion pieces.	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. https://www.ipso.co.uk/responding-to-covid-19/covid-case-studies/
Reporting of suicide and deaths	Third-party complaints about potentially excessive details in two separate inquest reports about different people. Third party complaints about publication of photographs of a man involved in an act of suicide. Complaint about potentially excessive details in an online article about an individual in the US, ruled outside IPSO's remit for global jurisdictional reasons. Complaint that a transgender person was misgendered in an inquest report.	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.
Privacy	During the investigation into a complaint about a potential breach of privacy which was not upheld, concerns were raised about the complaints handling protocol at the publication.	Complaints about a potential breach of privacy are actively monitored and concerns about complaints handling procedures addressed directly with the publications concerned.