



**News Corp UK & Ireland Limited's IPSO Annual Statement 2021**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Regulated Entity (as defined in, and for the purposes of, the Independent Press Standards Organisation CIC Regulations 2013) is News Corp UK & Ireland Limited ('News UK'). The Relevant Period is the period running from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

### 1.1 A brief overview of News UK

News UK is a wholly-owned subsidiary of News Corporation, an entity incorporated in the United States and listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange. The following companies are wholly-owned subsidiaries of News UK:

- News Group Newspapers Limited ('NGN'), which owns and publishes The Sun;
- Times Newspapers Limited ('TNL'), which owns and publishes The Times and The Sunday Times; and
- Times Literary Supplement Limited ('TLSL'), which owns and publishes The Times Literary Supplement.

### 1.2 News UK's responsible persons

News UK's responsible persons are:

- Angus McBride, General Counsel (angus.mcbride@news.co.uk or 0207 782 6978); and
- Sarah Woodget, Chief Compliance Officer (sarah.woodget@news.co.uk or 0207 782 6677).

### 1.3 News UK's titles

#### 1.3.1 The Sun



- Ipsos iris figures for April-December 2021 - Average audience per month for The Sun online: 25,451,000 (average page views per month: 383,000,000)

Websites:

- <https://www.thesun.co.uk/>
- <https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/>

2021 was again a year dominated by the Covid crisis. The Sun ran one of its most successful campaigns, 'Jabs Army', which aimed to recruit 50,000 volunteers to help the NHS roll out of the most ambitious vaccine programmes in British history. Within three weeks it had smashed its target with volunteers having donated over a million hours, helping out in more than 900 vaccination centres. A cross-party campaign, it was praised by politicians on all sides and was backed by more than 50 of Britain's biggest firms, including BT, Morrisons, British Airways, PaddyPower and Sky TV.

Building on the success of the 'Jabs Army' initiative, The Sun's Bounce Back Britain campaign gave a helping hand to communities and small businesses to get people back to work. With exclusive top value promotions, it had a roster of experts offering advice and reassurance on everything from childcare to CV writing. It also set out to correct mistruths and debunk myths about vaccination, encouraging the country to get jabbed. It smashed its target weeks in. Internal analysis of The Sun's reader panel showed that 83% of readers wanted to get vaccinated, a significant rise on pre-campaign figures in November.

The Press Gazette Scoop of the Year was The Sun's world exclusive on Matt Hancock's affair with his aide, breaching his own social distancing rules. The paper's scoop led to a national public outcry and, within 72 hours, Hancock's resignation. This was an open-and-shut case of public interest, in that the MP had broken the very rules he had put in place.

The Sun's Green Team asked readers to go green by pledging to reduce their waste, meat consumption and plastic use, and also to recycle, reuse and repair more. It followed a Sun reader survey that found 82% of people wanted to do more to help the environment, but simply didn't know how. Partnering with ReWorked and Morrisons, The Sun also created almost 500 recycling centres for single-use COVID masks.

The newspaper once again celebrated Black History month in October, when some of Britain's best-loved names wrote for The Sun about why they are proud to be Black and British.

### 1.3.2 The Times

#### THE TIMES

- *Ipsos iris figures for April-December 2021 - Average audience per month for Times online: 13,395,000 (average page views per month: 55,000,000)*

Website:

- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

The Times, founded in 1785, is the oldest national daily newspaper in the UK and holds an important place as the 'paper of record' on public life, from politics and world affairs to business and sport. Agenda-setting news reporting and analysis are complemented by an incisive Comment section, featuring columnists from across the political spectrum and the best satirical cartoonists. Other prominent fixtures of the paper include the Register section and puzzles pages (The Times introduced Sudoku to the nation back in 2005). In an age when world leaders routinely dismiss unwelcome reports as 'fake news', readers need a source they can trust for honest journalism that informs, entertains and analyses without bias. In 2021 they found it, once more, in The Times, with agenda-setting investigations and exclusives, unrivalled coverage of politics and business at home and abroad, and a range of columnists from all sides of the political spectrum showcased in print and on digital platforms.

Unrivalled specialists in science and health provided authoritative coverage of the coronavirus pandemic, while our well-connected lobby reporters under Steven Swinford scrutinised the government's management of events as restrictions came to an end. Scoops followed by media around the world included Valentine Low's revelation that a royal aide had submitted a bullying complaint against the Duchess of Sussex, and Martyn Ziegler's exclusive on the contentious plan for the European Super League (ESL), one of the biggest sports news stories of the past decade. Billy Kenber's five-year investigation into price manipulation and profiteering in the pharmaceutical industry was vindicated in July when regulators handed out record fines totalling £360 million and one large drug company agreed to cut Europe-wide prices for cancer drugs by three-quarters.

The Times continues to innovate and to campaign for change. In June The Times Education Commission was established, a year-long project to examine every aspect of Britain's education system and produce proposals for reform. In April Times Earth was launched, a digital hub for coverage of the environment and climate change. As part of the same initiative, in the year leading up to Cop26 in Glasgow, The Times

produced a run of monthly constructive, solutions-based supplements looking at sustainability and Net Zero from the perspectives of politics, business and the consumer. This year the company completed its pledge to remove all 250 tonnes of single-use plastic used annually from its products.

### 1.3.3 The Sunday Times

#### THE SUNDAY TIMES

- Ipsos iris figures for April-December 2021 - Average audience per month for Times online: 13,395,000 (average page views per month: 55,000,000)

Website:

- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

The Sunday Times, founded in 1822, is Britain's best-selling quality national Sunday newspaper. With an unrivalled depth and breadth of coverage through its eight separate sections, The Sunday Times enjoys the largest audience reach of any quality Sunday newspaper. It has continually broken boundaries: the first newspaper to introduce a separate business section; the first to publish a glossy colour magazine; a pioneering use of photography; and, with the Insight team, the longest-running investigations unit in the print press.

The Sunday Times continued its tradition of investigative, public interest journalism in 2021. Gabriel Pogrand exposed the lobbying activities of former prime minister David Cameron for the firm Greensill Capital; Martina Lees broke a series of stories on the flat-owners trapped by the cladding scandal; the Insight team revealed a pattern of peerages being awarded for political donations; David Collins and Hannah Al-Othman investigated allegations of appalling abuse of local women in Kenya by British troops.

The paper also made a point of providing in-depth, expert analysis, and found a strong demand among readers for long articles that explain complex issues in granular detail. Data editor Tom Calver analysed Covid infection rates, assessed the merits of pandemic modelling and tested the logic of lockdown easing with clarity and rigour, aided in digital by enhanced interactive graphics from our expanded in-house team. In the Magazine, Michael Sheridan used his unequalled knowledge and contacts in China to write the definitive profile of Xi Jinping, while Oliver Shah revealed the inside story of how clubs plotted the European Super League - and how the plan fell apart.

### 1.3.4 The Times Literary Supplement

#### TLS

- <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/>

The TLS is the leading international forum for literary culture. For more than a hundred years, The TLS has interpreted the work of the finest thinkers in the literary world. The TLS is unafraid of difficulty, challenges intellectual obscurity and brings light, clarity and reason where those qualities have never been needed more. The TLS 'has no rivals', says Le Monde. Its writers are critics and philosophers, historians and poets, interpreters, stimulators, inquirers, all of them arguing for their opinions in an age when opinion is too often

delivered without justification of any kind. From ancient to modern, it brings the best current thinking to life in every word, on paper, on iPad, online.

## **2. GUIDANCE FOR NEWS UK JOURNALISTS**

On joining News UK, all journalists are provided with a copy of the Editors' Code of Practice (the 'Code').

Further, all staff are issued with the Working at News booklet, which provides a summary of News UK's policies governing employee and staff conduct. These policies are published on News UK's intranet and staff are periodically required to certify that they have read, understood and will comply with them. As well as covering matters of workplace conduct such as bullying, harassment and whistleblowing, the policies cover matters such as bribery, conflicts of interest, data protection and privacy, all of which have a bearing on journalism. The Working at News booklet also makes clear that all editorial staff must read the Code in full, be aware of any updates to it, and uphold both the letter and the spirit of it. Compliance with the Code is also a standard contractual term in News UK's editorial contracts.

## **3. EDITORIAL STANDARDS**

### ***3.1. An overview of News UK titles' approach to editorial standards***

News UK, TNL, NGN, TLSL and all of News UK's titles are committed to abiding by IPSO's Regulations and the Code that IPSO enforces. Details of how News UK's titles deal with pre-publication guidance, verification of stories and compliance with the Code are set out below. News UK and its titles take complaints regarding editorial standards very seriously. The complaints policy for each News UK title is set out clearly on the relevant title's website, further information on which is below.

### ***3.2. Dissemination of IPSO private advisory notices***

Pre-publication guidance issued by IPSO is circulated as soon as possible by email to relevant staff on each News UK title and kept on file for future reference.

### ***3.3. Verification of stories***

All News UK titles strive for the highest standards of accuracy and all editorial staff are expected to follow standard journalistic best practice in verifying stories. When reporting events not witnessed at first hand, journalists are expected to take all possible steps to establish the credibility and reliability of any sources, and to corroborate their accounts where appropriate. In using the internet, the titles consider vital to distinguish between verified and reputable sources (academic research, public databases, legal documents, material published by trusted news organisations) and internet postings on unknown or unregulated websites, social media and blogs. Where appropriate, journalists are expected to approach the subjects of stories for comment before publication.

## **4. COMPLAINTS-HANDLING PROCESS**

Please see below for information on how NGN, TNL and TLSL handle editorial complaints.

### ***4.1. NGN***

The Sun is rigorous in its complaints-handling and is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations, as well as the Editors' Code.

#### **4.1.1. Complaints policy**

The editorial complaints page on The Sun website states that:

*The Sun takes complaints about editorial content seriously.*

*We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ('IPSO') rules and regulations, and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces.*

*For further details about IPSO, and to see a copy of the Code, click [here](#).*

*If you would like to make a complaint under the terms of the Editors' Code, administered by IPSO, please fill out the [following form](#).*

*Alternatively, you can email [editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk), or write to Editorial Complaints, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.*

The Sun's editorial complaints policy is also set out on the editorial complaints page of its website as follows:

- 1. This policy relates to all complaints framed within the terms of the Editors' Code.*
- 2. The Sun aims to handle all complaints as efficiently and effectively as possible.*
- 3. All complaints will be acknowledged promptly.*
- 4. We may need to contact you to request further information, in order to be able to fully understand and respond to your complaint.*
- 5. If we do not believe that your complaint requires investigation – for example because we do not believe it has raised a possible breach of the Code – we will let you know and explain the reasons why.*
- 6. Where appropriate, we will seek to resolve the complaint to your satisfaction.*
- 7. If we cannot resolve your complaint, or you disagree with our assessment that there has been no breach of the Editors' Code, you can take your complaint to IPSO.*

#### **4.1.2. IPSO complaints**

During the Relevant Period, complaints were dealt with by the Head of Editorial Compliance for The Sun, in conjunction with the Managing Editor.

#### **4.1.3. Forms of complaint**

Complaints are received in writing. There is a form on the editorial complaints page of The Sun's website which readers can use to submit a complaint or, alternatively, they can send an email to [editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk). It is also possible to submit a complaint in the post.

#### **4.1.4. Accuracy and corrections**

The importance attached to accuracy on The Sun is demonstrated by a prominent Corrections & Clarifications column permanently located on page 2 of the print edition. This states that The Sun aims to have the highest standards and abides by the rules in the Code. It also states that The Sun is a member of IPSO and advises readers that, if they would like to make a complaint to The Sun, to go to [www.thesun.co.uk/ipsa](http://www.thesun.co.uk/ipsa), email [editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk), or write to Editorial Complaints, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.

A link to the Corrections & Clarifications page is provided on the home page of The Sun's website: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/admin/clarifications/>.

The IPSO mark is carried both in the Corrections & Clarifications column in the print edition, and on the Editorial Complaints page of the website.

Where possible, corrections are published promptly with the agreement of the complainant. Substantive complaints which are resolved directly are communicated to the relevant staff and inform future training for journalists.

## **4.2. TNL**

### **4.2.1. Complaints policy**

TNL takes complaints about editorial standards seriously and is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations and the Code that IPSO enforces.

#### **The Times**

The Times complaints policy is published on The Times Editorial Complaints page on The Times website, where the IPSO mark also appears and states:

*The Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ('IPSO') rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces.*

- 1. The Times aims to handle all complaints as efficiently and effectively as possible.*
- 2. All complaints will be acknowledged on receipt.*
- 3. If we receive multiple complaints about the same issue we may make one response to all.*
- 4. We may request further information from you to enable us to investigate your complaint.*

5. We will deal promptly with complaints. Once full details have been established, we aim to resolve within 28 days any complaint brought under the IPSO Editors' Code. If we fail to resolve such a complaint to your satisfaction within this time, you may refer the matter to IPSO. If we believe that no breach of the Editors' Code is involved, we will tell you.

6. You can see a copy of the Editors' Code [here](#).

7. If at any stage of your complaint we do not hear back from you within 28 working days, we will consider your complaint resolved.

The Times Editorial Complaints page also states that readers wishing to make an editorial complaint may do so by email to the Feedback Editor of The Times (feedback@thetimes.co.uk) or by post to Feedback, The Times, The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF. More serious complaints about editorial standards and requests for corrections are handled by senior editorial executives with more than thirty years' experience, answering directly to the Editor.

## **The Sunday Times**

The Sunday Times complaints policy is provided on The Sunday Times Editorial Complaints page on its website where the IPSO mark also appears and states:

*The Sunday Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We aim to resolve your complaint efficiently, promptly and effectively by direct contact with you.*

*If you would like to complain about a Sunday Times story, please [fill out this form](#).*

*If you wish to make your complaint by post, please write to: Complaints, The Sunday Times, The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.*

*We abide by the rules and regulations of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and the Editors' Code of Practice, which IPSO enforces. For further details about IPSO [click here](#) and to see a copy of the Code, [click here](#).*

*If you would like to make a complaint under the terms of the Editors' Code, you have two options:*

- [Complain directly to IPSO here](#). If IPSO decides that the Code may have been breached it will forward the complaint to The Sunday Times.
- Complain to The Sunday Times by [filling out this form](#). We will let you know whether or not we think the Code has been breached.

## **How does The Sunday Times handle your complaint about editorial content?**

*If a complaint brought under the Editors' Code is not resolved by agreement with you within a reasonable time it will be passed to IpsO for resolution.*

*If we receive multiple complaints about the same matter we may make one response to all.*



*We may request further information from you in order to investigate your complaint.*

*If we conclude that the Editor's Code has been breached, we will propose remedial action such as a correction.*

*We will tell you if, in our opinion, there has been no breach.*

*If at any stage of your complaint we do not hear back from you within 28 working days, we will consider your complaint closed.*

*If you are not satisfied with our handling of your complaint, you should contact IPSO.*

#### **4.2.2. IPSO complaints**

Readers of The Times or The Sunday Times can complain about a possible breach of the Code by complaining to IPSO directly or completing the automated IPSO complaints form. A link for complaints for each title is provided on The Times and The Sunday Times editorial complaints pages on the website. The IPSO form requires the reader to confirm the article which they are complaining about, the clause(s) of the Code under which they wish to complain, and provide brief details of their complaint (with any supporting documentation, if applicable).

Editorial standards and complaints handling on The Times and Sunday Times are the responsibility of Ian Brunskill, Associate Editor, The Times and Sunday Times. He is assisted by Steve Bleach, Letters Editor of the Sunday Times, and Rob Nash, chief revise editor, who also deal with routine complaints. The TNL editorial legal team may be consulted particularly if complainants engage lawyers to bring IPSO complaints.

#### **4.2.3. Forms of complaint**

The Times and The Sunday Times accepts complaints by email, post, and through the automated IPSO complaints form on the website. Readers who complain by telephone are encouraged to put their complaint in writing.

#### **4.2.4. Accuracy and corrections**

The Times and The Sunday Times take complaints about editorial content seriously and there is a Corrections and Clarifications column on the Letters to the Editor page in the print version of both titles. This appears in every edition, regardless of whether there are any corrections or clarifications at the time of going to print.

There is also a link to both The Times Corrections and The Sunday Times Corrections on the website. The Times' Corrections and Clarifications web page states that The Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. It also states that The Times is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations, directs readers to send requests for corrections or clarifications by email to [feedback@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:feedback@thetimes.co.uk) or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.

The Sunday Times' Corrections and Clarifications column directs readers to submit complaints about inaccuracies by email to [complaints@sunday-times.co.uk](mailto:complaints@sunday-times.co.uk) or by post to Complaints, The Sunday Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF. It also contains a link to the title's complaints procedure and states that IPSO will examine formal complaints about the editorial content of UK newspapers and magazines.

The IPSO mark is carried in the Corrections and Clarifications column on the Letters to the Editor page in the print version of both titles and on the complaints link on the website.

## **4.3. TLS**

The TLS takes complaints about editorial standards seriously and is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations and the Code that IPSO enforces.

### **4.3.1. Complaints policy**

The TLS website states that:

*The TLS is committed to abiding by the rules and regulations of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. For further details about IPSO, go to <http://www.ipso.co.uk/>; to see the Code of Practice, go to [http://www.editorscode.org.uk/the\\_code.php](http://www.editorscode.org.uk/the_code.php).*

*If you would like to make a complaint under the terms of the Editors' Code administered by IPSO, [please fill out this form](#).*

*If you wish to make your complaint by post, please write to:*

*The Editor,  
Times Literary Supplement,  
The News Building,  
1 London Bridge Street,  
London SE1 9GF*

### **4.3.2. IPSO complaints**

The TLS website states that, if a reader would like to make a complaint under the Editors' Code, to fill out the automated IPSO form, a link to which is provided on the website. This requires the reader to confirm the article which they are complaining about, the clause(s) of the Editors' Code under which they wish to complain, and brief details of their complaint (with any supporting documentation, if applicable). The TLS website also invites readers to make a complaint via post by writing to the Editor of The TLS at The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.

The IPSO Mark is carried on the contact page on The TLS website: <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/contact-us/> and a reference to IPSO is also included on page three of the print version.

### **4.3.3. Forms of complaint**

The TLS primarily accepts complaints through the automated IPSO complaints form, as well as by post.

## **5. RECORD ON COMPLIANCE**

Details of any complaints against News UK's titles are provided below.

### **5.1. Details of any complaints against Sun titles**

During the Relevant Period, IPSO investigated 26 complaints against Sun titles: of those, six complaints were not upheld, six were resolved through IPSO mediation, and 14 were upheld (across The Sun, The Sun on Sunday, The Scottish Sun, The Scottish Sun on Sunday, Sun Online and Scottish Sun Online). Links to the complaints are below. One resolved complaint did not result in a published document, and is therefore not listed.

## Complaints not upheld:

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=11470-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28014-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28295-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=29958-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00528-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09834-21>

## Complaints resolved through IPSO mediation:

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28398-20> (combined with 29399-20)  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28680-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=03247-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=11123-21>

## Complaints upheld:

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00234-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00235-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02850-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05240-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=10262-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02577-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=11011-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28287-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=01741-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28045-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02471-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00913-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02607-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02975-21>

In response to upheld complaints, warnings were added to the relevant cuttings databases so that staff using cuttings to research future articles on related topics would be aware of the upheld complaints and not repeat previous errors. Upheld complaints were incorporated into any subsequent face-to-face training sessions. We should note that five of these were complaints about the same material in multiple articles and were disaggregated for administrative reasons. They were in effect one complaint, not five separate ones.

## 5.2. Details of any complaints against The Times titles

During the Relevant Period, IPSO investigated 12 complaints against The Times: one was upheld; four were resolved through IPSO mediation. In the remaining seven complaints, there was found to have been no breach of the Code. Links to the complaints are below.

**Complaints not upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05940-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=10506-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=04588-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28913-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=07939-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=10211-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28636-20>

**Complaints resolved through IPSO mediation:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=03148-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=29243-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=29978-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=11997-20>

**Complaints upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=04659-21>

The upheld adjudication and corresponding complaint were drawn to the attention of all Times staff in an email from Ian Brunskill, Associate Editor, The Times and Sunday Times. Links to the upheld complaints were set out in the email. All rulings were discussed as appropriate with the journalists and desk heads involved.

**5.3. Details of any complaints against The Sunday Times titles**

During the Relevant Period, IPSO investigated ten complaints against The Sunday Times. One was upheld, under Clause 1 of the Code (Accuracy). One was resolved through IPSO mediation. In the remaining eight complaints, there was found to have been no breach of the Code. Links to the complaints are below.

**Complaints not upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=04917-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05779-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02600-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02510-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00347-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00661-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00565-21>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28854-20>

**Complaints resolved through IPSO mediation:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=27978-20>

**Complaints upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28854-20>

The upheld adjudication and corresponding complaint was drawn to the attention of all Sunday Times staff in an email from the Letters Editor of The Sunday Times, Steve Bleach, on 28 March 2022. A link to the complaint was included in the email. All rulings were discussed as appropriate with the desk heads and journalists involved.

#### **5.4. Details of any complaints against The TLS**

There were no complaints against The TLS during the Relevant Period.

## **6. TRAINING PROCESS**

Please see below for information on the training that News UK has provided to its editorial staff on IPSO.

### **6.1. Initial training**

#### **6.1.1. Face-to-face training**

At the time of the launch of IPSO in September 2014, News UK, via its Compliance and editorial legal departments, undertook face-to-face training of all NGN and TNL editorial staff. This face-to-face training covered the law relating to journalism and the Editors' Code, and provided editorial staff with bespoke training materials. Since then, News UK's programme of face-to-face training on IPSO has continued, as set out below.

#### **6.1.2. IPSO and Editorial Compliance e-learning module**

In addition to the face-to-face training, News UK's bespoke IPSO and Editorial Compliance e-learning module was first launched to all News UK editorial staff, including NGN, TNL and TLSL, on 13 March 2017. As part of this launch, all editorial staff received a pocket-sized version of the Code. The module covers newsgathering scenarios concerning the Code, as well as News UK's Payment and Editorial Data Protection Policies. Introductions to the various sections of the module are voiced by Stig Abell (Editor of The TLS and former Director of the Press Complaints Commission), Angus McBride (News UK General Counsel) and Pia Sarma (TNL Editorial Legal Director and News UK Deputy General Counsel).

In 2019, the e-learning module was updated to reflect IPSO's most recent rulings and the most commonly arising issues for our journalists.

As training on the Code necessarily covers the more general and commonly-occurring considerations, News UK editorial staff are strongly encouraged to seek guidance on any issues that a story might raise under the Editors' Code so that the specifics of the case can be considered. The relevant senior editors and editorial legal department answer Editors' Code queries from journalists both during the newsgathering process and when copy is being finalised.

### **6.2. Training in the Relevant Period**

#### **6.2.1. All staff**

The IPSO and Editorial Compliance e-learning module was re-launched to all News UK editorial staff, including NGN, TNL and TLS, on 26 October 2020. Since 6 March 2019, the IPSO and Editorial Compliance

module has also been launched to editorial new joiners as part of the compulsory compliance training programme.

## 6.2.2. NGN

Starting in the second half of 2021, The Sun began a new Editors' Code training programme for all its journalists. Half a dozen sessions were run during the year, with more scheduled for 2022 including face to face training. The training was delivered by The Sun's Head of Editorial Compliance.

## 6.2.3. TNL

TNL training is conducted by TNL Editorial Legal as well as the senior editors responsible for editorial standards. Continuing training includes targeted seminars on specific topics in more detail for smaller groups. These sessions cover legal and standards issues including the Editors' Code and are delivered by senior editors, editorial legal team and barristers. A specific training programme is also rolled out for graduate trainees and apprentices, the digital team and new sub-editors.

Face to face training was put on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. Virtual sessions on the Editors' Code and media law were held in 2021 for casual sub-editors; both subjects were also covered by new trainees in the two-week intensive introductory course that all undergo before starting training with their chosen departments. Training schedules are currently being revised now that staff are back in the office.

## 6.3 Plans for further training

All News UK's titles will resume face-to-face training for its journalists in 2022, following the easing of lockdown restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 6.4 Charitable Giving

As part of our News Corp Giving fund this year we supported charities and organisations that focussed on providing much needed services to support communities impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Our staff voted for Age UK, ALONE, Mind and NHS Charities Together to share the **£100,000 charity pot**.

Over the festive season, News UK also reallocated some of the money that would have usually been spent on Christmas celebrations and gifts to be donated instead to charitable causes nominated by teams around the business. A sum over **£100,000** has been donated across 17 charities across the UK and Ireland. Our largest donation will support **Women's Aid**, specifically helping to keep a refuge in South London open over Christmas. Other donations helped **Barnardos Ireland Mind the Emma Cameron Foundation, Tusk, Save the Children FareShare, Southwark Foodbank Women's Aid, Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Gift of Life**.

The Times and Sunday Times Christmas charity appeal for 2021 raised more than £2.51 million for the Refugee Councils of Britain, Outward Bound and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. There was also an Afghanistan appeal earlier in the year. Meanwhile The Sun ran its Christmas Together campaign to bring festive cheer to those lonely in lockdown and Fabulous Magazine's care package appeal for the NHS passed £1m.

**ENDS.**