

Clause 12 (Discrimination) Analysis 1 January to 31 March 2023

IPSO will publish information on a quarterly basis where we have received more than ten complaints under Clause 12 of the Editors' Code of Practice about the same issue. The information below gives a brief summary of the types of complaints received and the outcome. It is not intended to be exhaustive and the statistics about the numbers of complaints received are accurate up to the end of the relevant quarter. These statistics do not include any cases still under investigation; cases relating to any non-regulated publications; or cases where IPSO received fewer than 10 complaints.

Headline	Publications	Characteristics/group	Analysis		
More than 100 complaints received					
I'm sorry, but all this ADHD doesn't add up	The Sunday Times	People with ADHD and other neurodiverse conditions	Print and online comment piece discussing people seeking a diagnosis for ADHD. Complainants considered the article to be uninformed, inaccurate and ableist. Many believed that the article trivialised the condition and implied that people were putting pressure on the NHS by seeking a diagnosis. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.		
Girl, 16, stabbed to death in 'targeted attack'	The Times	Transgender people	Online and print article reporting on the murder of a transgender girl. Complainants objected to the way the online article was edited to add the girl's former name and they said removed references to her being a girl. Complainants felt that the article discriminated against a vulnerable minority group and contained anti-trans rhetoric. Complaints all made by third parties.		
CHA CHA CHAIR / STRICTLY AMAZING	The Sun	Disabled people	Front-page article about Sophie Morgan joining Strictly Come Dancing. Complainants objected to the wording of the subheading which described her as the "first wheelchair contestant" as opposed to "wheelchair-using contestant". Many believed that the article was ableist and dehumanising. Some said that the headline was tasteless. Complaints all made by third parties.		

Headline	Publications	Characteristics/group	Analysis
Between 10 and 100 complaints			
Jeremy Clarkson condemned for 'vile and disgusting' tirade at Meghan saying he 'hates' her and dreams of people 'throwing excrement' at her	metro.co.uk	The Duchess of Sussex	Online article reporting on Jeremy Clarkson's column in The Sun in December about the Duchess of Sussex. Complainants believed that re-publishing his comments was as offensive as the original comments themselves, and said that they were misogynistic and would incite violence. Complaints made by third parties.
Help me, I'm Scottish	spectator.co.uk	Scottish people	First person online article by a columnist about being Scottish. Complainants said the piece contained lazy stereotypes generalising Scottish people as drug addicts. They believed the language to be offensive and racist. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
Why are so many adults now being diagnosed with ADHD?	Daily Mail	People with ADHD and other neurodiverse conditions	Print and online comment piece about an increase in people being diagnosed with ADHD. Complainants objected to the narrative that people are making up their symptoms for attention, and believed that it could make people feel ashamed to be disabled. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
I'm calm and focused for this ADHD test	The Times	People with ADHD and other neurodiverse conditions	Print and online comment piece by a columnist about getting a diagnosis for ADHD. Complainants said that the article mocked the experience of people with ADHD and the process of being diagnosed. They considered it to be ableist and that the writer had no expertise of the subject. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
SECULAR SCOTLAND What do atheists make of the role religion is playing in society? / What is the role of religion in modern Scotland?	The Herald on Sunday	Kate Forbes	Front page photograph which had been altered to depict Kate Forbes holding a bible. Complainants believed that the alteration had been made to depict Forbes as a religious extremist and that it discriminated against her religious beliefs. One complaint made under Clause 1 (Accuracy) is being investigated through IPSO's usual processes.
End this crude smear against conservatives – Hitler's Nazis were in fact Left-wing racists	The Mail on Sunday	Victims of the Holocaust and those with socialist or communist beliefs	Print and online comment piece in the wake of comments by Gary Lineker about UK politics. Complainants believed that the article was a form of Holocaust denial and was inaccurate. Many believed that the article was anti-Semitic and was written to deliberately mislead the public. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.