

Clause 12 (Discrimination) Analysis 1 April to 30 June 2020

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
Over 100 complaints			
TROUBLE BREWING	The Sun	Pagans	Opinion item referencing pagans. Complainants said the article victimised and ridiculed a minority group. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
The police will kill me before corona kills me': Two 18-year-old organisers of the London Black Lives Matter protest make incredible claim that they 'risk their lives on a daily basis' living in 'so racist' UK	Mail Online	Black people / two individuals	Online article about two young women who organised Black Lives Matter protests. Complainants believed the article was racist in its tone and could incite people to harass or attack the women. Some suggested that the women were treated differently than other protesters and that this demonstrated racism. Complaints were made by third parties.
Stop being so uptight, Kate — it's really worth moaning over a little tittle Tattler	The Sunday Times	Duchess of Sussex	Opinion piece about the Duchess of Cambridge, in which the journalist compared her with the Duchess of Sussex. Complainants believed it was derogatory towards the Duchess of Sussex and that the columnist was being racist. Complaints were made by third parties.
I slapped JK and I'm not sorry / It's true I slapped Joanne ...but I did not abuse her	The Sun	Victims of domestic abuse / JK Rowling	Front-page article written from the point of view of a man who admitted slapping his ex-wife, the author JK Rowling. Complainants believed the tone of the article was misogynistic and discriminated against victims of domestic abuse by giving the perpetrator a voice. Complainants said the headline glorified domestic abuse and could incite violence against women. Complaints were made by third parties.

Headline	Publications	Characteristics/group	Analysis
Between 10 and 100 complaints received			
Our country must unite if we want to become stronger	Hull Daily Mail	Minority groups	Opinion piece by a member of the public in the newspaper's "First Person" column. Complainants said that the article was racist, homophobic and xenophobic, and sought to cause division and spread hate. The publication printed an apology the following day and withdrew the column. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
DID BARNIER INFECT BOJO?	The Mail on Sunday	Michel Barnier, French people	Double-page article asking if Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier was responsible for infecting the Prime Minister with coronavirus. Complainants said that the article was xenophobic and had an anti-EU sentiment. Complaints were made by third parties; related complaints under Clause 1 (Accuracy) did not raise a potential breach.
Teachers urged to 'sabotage' lessons as unions campaign to win concessions from government before return to school on 'week on, week off system'	Mail Online	Teachers	Online article about guidance issued by the National Education Union advising teachers against online lessons. Complainants believed that the headline was untrue and that the article was inflammatory and undermined the professionalism of teachers. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
The Blob is back - to sabotage the return to school	The Mail on Sunday	Teachers	Article critical of teachers unions and bureaucrats, characterised as "the Blob". Complainants said that this term was derogatory and that the article was discriminatory towards teachers and union members. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.

LET OUR TEACHERS BE HEROES / TIME TO GET BACK TO CLASS	Daily Mail	Teachers and black children	Front-page article claiming that unions are preventing teachers from returning to classrooms and doing their job. Complainants said that the article was showing contempt for the teaching profession. Complainants also believed that non-white children had been edited out of the photograph on the front page. Complaints were from third parties and in some case did not raise concerns about discrimination against an individual.
DON'T START NEW WAR / Budge told new league plan risks re-igniting war	Sunday Mail	Heart of Midlothian FC supporters	Back page article about the Chairwoman of Hearts FC, Ann Budge. This featured a photograph of a blooded knife slicing through the logos of Partick Thistle and Hearts football clubs, where the Hearts logo was more prominent. Complainants believed the article was discriminatory towards supporters of Hearts. They also objected to the imagery, which could be linked with knife crime, and the use of the word "war" in the headline. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
Auntie's doing her job again. All it took was thousands of deaths and a useless cabinet	The Sunday Times	Cyclists	Comment piece in which the columnist said that he was tempted to stretch piano wire across a lane used by families on bikes. Complainants felt that the piece was irresponsible and discriminatory towards cyclists and would encourage people to injure cyclists in this way. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
CUMMINGS BROKE LOCKDOWN TWICE / COME CLEAN ON YOUR TWO TRIPS NORTH	Sunday Mirror	Dominic Cummings, Conservative politicians, Brexit supporters	Front-page article which continued inside the paper detailing claims that government advisor Dominic Cummings broke lockdown rules. Complainants believed that Mr Cummings was being discriminated against because he is a Conservative politician and a supporter of Brexit. Some complainants claimed that in contrast, Labour supporters had broken lockdown but had not been written about. Complaints were made by third parties.
Protesters clash at Waterloo Station as hundreds defy police curfew	metro.co.uk	Black people	Online article about clashes between Black Lives Matter supporters and far right protesters. Complainants believed the article was biased against the Black Lives Matter supporters and perpetuated a false narrative that black people are violent. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.