

Quarterly analysis of standards themes arising

Themes between January and March 2022

Theme	Issues arising	Actions by IPSO in response
Reporting of Coronavirus	<p>Upheld complaint after an online article inaccurately reported that an increase in stillbirths could be attributed to a lack of face-to-face GP appointments.</p> <p>Upheld complaint after an online article inaccurately reported on the indefinite closure of a pub.</p> <p>Upheld complaint after a publication reported and tweeted inaccurate figures of Covid deaths.</p>	<p>IPSO's Covid Report was published in November 2021, in which the regulator reviewed all complaints about Covid-related reporting to identify trends and offer guidance on reporting in this area. https://www.ipso.co.uk/responding-to-covid-19/the-covid-report/</p> <p>Complaints about coverage of the coronavirus pandemic continue to be actively monitored. IPSO now publishes case studies of coronavirus-related complaints on its website to highlight relevant complaints. https://www.ipso.co.uk/responding-to-covid-19/covid-case-studies/</p>
Intrusion into grief	<p>Upheld complaints after two publications misrepresented a woman's comments.</p> <p>Three publications reported on a man's suicide which did not breach the code.</p> <p>Third-party complaints about the publication of videos of events which led to a person's death.</p>	<p>These issues continue to be monitored to ensure that there are not consistent failures in such processes.</p> <p>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.</p>
Privacy and Harassment	<p>A harassment and privacy complaint made by an actress was upheld.</p> <p>A complaint about a photograph of a van involved in a road traffic accident was not upheld.</p> <p>Complaints made against various publications about the use of a video of a council meeting were not upheld.</p>	<p>Complaints about a potential breach of privacy are actively monitored.</p> <p>IPSO's new training newsletter for its member publications for May will be on the subject of privacy.</p>
Transgender Matters	<p>Upheld complaint after a publication misrepresented NHS guidelines about transgender patients.</p>	<p>IPSO's guidance for journalists and editors on the reporting of transgender people will be revised in 2022.</p>

Theme	Issues arising	Actions by IPSO in response
Social Media	<p>Two complaints not upheld where publications could prove that a complainant's social media platforms were publicly viewable.</p> <p>Upheld complaint after one publication inaccurately reported that a man was jailed for sending a tweet.</p> <p>Publication used the wrong photograph of a man taken from social media to illustrate a court report. Complaint resolved through mediation.</p>	<p>IPSO's guidance for journalists and editors on the use of social media has recently been updated: https://www.ipso.co.uk/media/2173/ipso-social-media-guidance-final.pdf</p>