

Annual statement to the Independent Press Standards Organisation 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Oxford School for the Future of Journalism is an online journalism school for teenagers aged 14-17. As OXSFJ we're the publisher of *Harbingers' Magazine*, which is a global media project – an online current affairs magazine written and edited by teenagers under professional mentorship from career journalists. It's a learning environment, where every pitch, article and podcast episode is created by (and for) the young people worldwide.

Being a non-profit organisation, we provide English and journalism lessons free of tuition for the young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through *Harbingers' Magazine* we provide necessary education to enable our students to generate a sustainable income and become self-sufficient. We run local newsrooms all around the world, e.g. Afghanistan, Armenia, Ecuador, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.

1.2 List of titles

[Harbingers' Magazine](#) – an online current affairs magazine written and edited by teenagers under professional mentorship from career journalists.

1.3 Responsible person

The OXSFJ's responsible person is Konrad Radecki-Mikulicz, who can be contacted at konrad@oxsfj.com.

2. Editorial standards

2.1 Overview

The Oxford School for the Future of Journalism has always been committed to upholding the editorial standards enshrined in the Editors' Code of Practice. All our instructors are professional journalists with experience at various news outlets all around the world. They adhere to these standards in their work as journalists, but also pass them on and teach them to our students as mentors..

Compliance with Editors' Code, Data Protection Act and, given our unique and sensitive work environment (working with minors), Safeguarding Policy, is a requirement written into all instructors' contracts.

2.2 Editorial guidance

All our instructors are issued with copies of the Editors' Code. Annually we conduct a training session for our staff, in order to reinforce and refresh the importance of representing our organisation and the profession of journalism in a positive and professional way.

We promptly inform instructors of any changes to the legal and regulatory framework. Significant regulatory changes are addressed through webinar training to ensure instructors understand and comply with new requirements and can effectively teach them to their students.

2.3 Verification of stories

Accuracy, as stipulated in Clause 1 of Editors' Code, is at the heart of everything we do as journalists. And although our students rarely cover any sensitive topics, we still make sure to follow proper procedures and teach them how to uphold editorial standards, set out in Editors' Code.

In the course of our work, we have developed a three-stage verification method. The first stage is the student's work. Then, the information and facts contained in the article is verified by the instructor, and finally – by a professional editor. If an instructor or editor identifies a potentially sensitive story, it is also reviewed by our editor-in-chief.

2.4 Financial Transparency

Our instructors, as professional journalists, are well-versed in industry financial transparency guidelines and incorporate them into their teaching.

As of 2024, neither The Oxford School for the Future of Journalism nor Harbingers' Magazine has accepted any commercial offers, including sponsored content, paid partnerships, or similar arrangements.

3. Complaints

3.1 Forms in which complaints are accepted

Harbingers' Magazine has a global audience and we're aware that we can receive complaints in many different forms, about a wide variety of issues. That is why we offer our readers a range of avenues for complaints.

1. **Complaint form.** Our [IPSO membership](#) is prominently displayed in the website header and footer (visible under each article). The landing page



provides clear instructions for filing complaints and includes the email address complaints@hrbmagazine.com.

2. **IPSO.** At the same landing page, we inform our readers that they can, for whatever reason, take their complaints directly with IPSO. We provide them with IPSO's website address and telephone.
3. **Contact us.** This is a general way of contacting us with any issue. If we receive any complaint at our contact email, it will be internally forwarded to the person responsible for handling complaints.

3.2 Handling of editorial complaints.

The Oxford School for the Future of Journalism complaints are assessed at the outset to determine whether there is any issue under the Code. If there is no breach, a person responsible for handling complaints will write to the complainant explaining carefully how this decision has been reached. If the complainant is not satisfied with our answer, they will be advised to make direct contact with IPSO for a ruling on it.

3.3 Keeping of records

All complaints that are entered via the complaints form are recorded electronically. Complaints that are framed under the Code and are submitted by contact form and relayed to a person responsible for handling complaints, are also entered into the system, as are complaints referred by IPSO. When substantive complaints are resolved key information is transferred to a central register which records the name of the complainant, nature of the complaint, Code clause raised, outcome, remedial action (if any), and time taken to resolve.

3.4 Record on compliance

We have not had any complaints in 2024.

4. Training

4.1 Training process

Despite the absence of complaints in 2024, we maintain annual refresher training on the Editors' Code. Given the sensitive nature of our work with minors, all instructors are required to provide up-to-date enhanced DBS checks and complete NSPCC child protection training.

4.2 Plans for further training

In 2025, we plan to conduct a series of webinars for instructors based on recent IPSO rulings, followed by an assessment in the form of a quiz.