Quarterly analysis of standards themes arising

Themes between April and June 2021

| Theme | Issues arising | Actions by IPSO in response |
|--|---|---|
| Reporting of coronavirus | Upheld complaint after a publication breached someone's privacy by reporting that they had tested positive for coronavirus. | 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/ |
| | Upheld complaint after the publication of an inaccurate headline and article about how schools would look after lockdown ended. | Complaints about the coronavirus pandemic are being actively monitored and we have begun work on a full review of complaints in this area. |
| | Four complaints about inaccurate articles about vaccines. Two complaints were upheld and two resolved directly between the complainant and publication. | |
| Children in sex cases | Publication of identifying information about the relationship between a convicted sex offender and victim in a court report. The complaint was upheld. | IPSO has published guidance for journalists on reporting sexual offences. The reporting of sexual offences is included in training sessions for journalists. |
| | | IPSO will produce guidance for editors and journalists about court reporting. |
| Reporting of crime | Upheld complaints after three related newspapers identified someone in a report about a court case who was not genuinely relevant to the story. | Upheld complaints under Clause 9 (Reporting of crime) are relatively rare. We will monitor the situation closely to look for evidence of a concerning pattern. |
| | Complaint that somebody was identified who was not relevant to an article. Complaint was not upheld. | |
| Accuracy relating to archive information | Upheld complaint after articles did not make clear that information related to historic and not recent events. | These issues will be monitored to ensure that there are not consistent failures in such processes. |
| | Upheld complaint after a publication reported that an old photograph was recent. | |
| | Complaint about an article featuring somebody who had died which implied that they were still living. Complaint | |

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| | was resolved directly between complainant and publication. | |
| Domestic abuse | Two upheld complaints relating to articles about domestic abuse. The publications were unable to demonstrate care taken not to publish inaccurate information. | IPSO is currently producing information for the public on the reporting of domestic abuse. |