

Sent via email on 6 June 2024

Dear Ms Rathbone,

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2024 in which you asked about IPSO's role in ensuring that the Press is playing its part in tackling racism and discrimination and how IPSO handles matters of discrimination and racism.

IPSO first and foremost upholds press standards by enforcing the Editors' Code. Part of that Code, as noted in your letter, relates to discrimination, including discrimination based on race and colour, as well as other protected characteristics. Regulated publications are aware of the Code, and the sanctions required by IPSO should the Code be broken.

Looking beyond individual complaints, IPSO has a dedicated Standards Team whose purpose is to raise press standards including through training, guidance, and interventions where we identify patterns of concern. Last year, IPSO conducted in-person training sessions with 80 journalists and journalism students. While we will always shape individual modules to the circumstances, training around Clause 12 is a standard part of our programme; three weeks ago we held an in-person training session in Manchester for a group of journalism trainees exclusively devoted to this issue.

To improve transparency and accountability around these issues, IPSO specifically monitors complaints made under Clause 12, and publishes information on a quarterly basis about instances in which articles receive more than ten complaints under Clause 12. IPSO also produces guidance for journalists and publishers who are looking for resources on specific issues. These are grouped by theme, and several touch upon discrimination. You can find this information on IPSO's website here:

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/resources-and-guidance/>.

All the best,
Alice Gould

Alice Gould
Head of Complaints

Independent Press Standards Organisation

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The IPSO Mark is displayed by all IPSO - regulated publishers to demonstrate their accountability to independent regulation and commitment to professional standards.