

*News* UK

**News Corp UK & Ireland Limited's IPSO Annual Statement 2020**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Regulated Entity (as defined in, and for the purposes of, the Independent Press Standards Organisation CIC Regulations 2013) is News Corp UK & Ireland Limited ('News UK'). The Relevant Period is the period running from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

### 1.1 A brief overview of News UK

News UK is a wholly-owned subsidiary of News Corporation, an entity incorporated in the United States and listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange. The following companies are wholly-owned subsidiaries of News UK:

- News Group Newspapers Limited ('NGN'), which owns and publishes The Sun;
- Times Newspapers Limited ('TNL'), which owns and publishes The Times and The Sunday Times; and
- Times Literary Supplement Limited ('TLSL'), which owns and publishes The Times Literary Supplement.

### 1.2 News UK's responsible persons

News UK's responsible persons are:

- Angus McBride, General Counsel (angus.mcbride@news.co.uk or 0207 782 6978); and
- Sarah Woodget, Chief Compliance Officer (sarah.woodget@news.co.uk or 0207 782 6677).

### 1.3 News UK's titles

#### 1.3.1 The Sun



- Comscore figure for 2020 – Average unique views of The Sun online: 36,672,000

Websites:

- <https://www.thesun.co.uk/>
- <https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/>

2020 was dominated by the Covid pandemic, and in common with other businesses, The Sun managed the challenges of putting together a website and a print newspaper with nearly all of its staff working remotely. The newspaper rose to the challenge, and played a lead role in reporting the Covid-19 pandemic to the UK public. It also encouraged the country to come together to clap for the NHS on Thursday evenings and led calls to support the Poppy Appeal as donations to the British Legion slowed down when elderly poppy sellers had to self-isolate ("Be a poppy star", 24th September 2020).

In other highlights, The Sun launched Green Week, showing readers how they could help to save the planet and money at the same time. The Sun also joined forces with the global 'Count Us In' initiative, which aims to encourage people to club together to save a billion tonnes of carbon: the premise being that if just a third of The Sun's audience signed up to two pledges, they would save 8m tonnes. The newspaper also celebrated Black History month in October, when some of Britain's best-loved names wrote for The Sun about their heroes from black history. The Sun's Time for Change panel discussion was widely praised as a constructive and positive contribution to the national discussion around Black Lives Matter.

In 2020, The Sun also ran a major campaign about domestic violence, which was reported to be on the rise at the start of lockdown. The newspaper championed the issue, showing victims where they could get help and encouraging readers to donate to women's charities. The paper's efforts, including protecting migrant women, were recognised in Parliament. Speaking to MPs, Shadow Safeguarding Minister Jess Phillips said: *"This is not just a hobby horse of mine. It is not some liberal-elite, Guardian-led campaign... The Sun newspaper backed the campaign to protect migrant women in this bill, and I thank them for their support."*

The Sun also triumphed in the libel action brought by Johnny Depp in relation to two articles published in April 2018. Following a 16-day trial, in July 2020, at which both Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard gave evidence, Mr Justin Nicol found that Depp had committed at least 12 violent incidents against Heard and that she feared for her life. Consequently, the newspaper won the case against it and issued a statement saying: *"The Sun has stood up and campaigned for the victims of domestic abuse for over 20 years. Domestic abuse victims must never be silenced, and we thank the judge for his careful consideration and thank Amber Heard for her courage in giving evidence to the court."* Depp sought leave to appeal the judgment to the Court of Appeal, which was refused following a hearing last month.

Finally, The Sun received 14 nominations across 12 categories in the 2020 Society of Editors' Press Awards, which has been postponed until later this year.

### 1.3.2 The Times

#### THE TIMES

- Comscore figure for 2020 – Average unique views of Times Online: 13,586,000

Website:

- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

The Times, founded in 1785, is the oldest national daily newspaper in the UK and holds an important place as the 'paper of record' on public life, from politics and world affairs to business and sport. Agenda-setting news reporting and analysis are complemented by an incisive Comment section, featuring columnists from across the political spectrum and the best satirical cartoonists. Other prominent fixtures of the paper include the Register section and puzzles pages (The Times introduced Sudoku to the nation back in 2005). In an age when world leaders routinely dismiss unwelcome reports as 'fake news', readers need a source they can trust for honest journalism that informs, entertains and analyses without bias. In 2018 they found it, once more, in The Times, with agenda-setting investigations and exclusives, unrivalled coverage of politics and business at home and abroad, and a range of columnists from all sides of the political spectrum showcased in print and on digital platforms.

In this extraordinary year The Times had to cover the biggest public health story for generations while contending (like everyone else) with the restrictions and practical challenges the pandemic imposed. With only a handful of people in the newsroom at London Bridge for much of the year (and sometimes no one at all), maintaining expected standards and ensuring continued publication in print and on multiple digital platforms involved rethinking almost every aspect of the editorial planning and production process.

Despite the limitations of remote working, The Times continued to break agenda-setting stories and, amid the uncertainties of the pandemic, to give readers journalism they could trust. An unrivalled team of specialists in science and health came into its own, reporting the latest turns in a rapidly developing story while, crucially, providing expert, unbiased analysis and explanation. In a run of authoritative, readable in-

depth articles by the science editor Tom Whipple, a compelling account of what covid-19 actually does to the human body stood out. In politics, a well-connected lobby team examined and questioned the government response throughout the year and delivered important scoops, revealing in March the full extent of the emergency measures being planned to tackle the virus and in November that England was heading for a second national lockdown. Times investigations uncovered that ministers had wasted at least £150 million buying masks with the wrong kinds of straps from a little-known family investment company, and that HMRC was using debt collectors to harass some of those worst-affected by the pandemic into paying arrears (a practice stopped as a result of our report).

### 1.3.3 *The Sunday Times*

#### **THE SUNDAY TIMES**

- *Comscore figure for 2020 – Average unique views of Times Online: 13,586,000*

Website:

- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>

The Sunday Times, founded in 1822, is Britain's best-selling quality national Sunday newspaper. With an unrivalled depth and breadth of coverage through its eight separate sections, The Sunday Times enjoys the largest audience reach of any quality Sunday newspaper. It has continually broken boundaries: the first newspaper to introduce a separate business section; the first to publish a glossy colour magazine; a pioneering use of photography; and, with the Insight team, the longest-running investigations unit in the print press.

Investigative journalism from The Sunday Times was behind the breaking of a series of public interest stories in 2020. Gabriel Pogrand exposed potential conflicts of interest when housing minister Robert Jenrick approved a controversial housing scheme, and Martina Lees led the field with her campaigning series on the hidden housing scandal of thousands of families trapped in unsaleable flats with unsafe cladding. Caroline Wheeler uncovered modern slavery in the British fashion trade. Our Insight team revealed potential war crimes from a rogue SAS unit in Iraq, and exposed a range of concerns with their forensic analysis of government mismanagement of the Covid pandemic. Emily Dugan investigated the human cost of our taste for avocados in the appalling mistreatment of workers in Kenyan avocado farms. It's also worth noting that our Christmas charity appeal, conducted jointly with The Times, raised more than £3m for charities that tackle hunger and food waste in the UK, provide sports facilities to young people facing challenges and protect endangered species in Africa. The Sunday Times was nominated for 28 awards in the delayed Press Awards.

### 1.3.4 *The Times Literary Supplement*

#### **TLS**

- <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/>

The TLS is the leading international forum for literary culture. For more than a hundred years, The TLS has interpreted the work of the finest thinkers in the literary world. The TLS is unafraid of difficulty, challenges intellectual obscurity and brings light, clarity and reason where those qualities have never been needed

more. The TLS 'has no rivals', says Le Monde. Its writers are critics and philosophers, historians and poets, interpreters, stimulators, inquirers, all of them arguing for their opinions in an age when opinion is too often delivered without justification of any kind. From ancient to modern, it brings the best current thinking to life in every word, on paper, on iPad, online.

## **2. GUIDANCE FOR NEWS UK JOURNALISTS**

On joining News UK, all journalists are provided with a copy of the Editors' Code of Practice (the 'Code').

Further, all staff are issued with the Working at News booklet, which provides a summary of News UK's policies governing employee and staff conduct. These policies are published on News UK's intranet and staff are periodically required to certify that they have read, understood and will comply with them. As well as covering matters of workplace conduct such as bullying, harassment and whistleblowing, the policies cover matters such as bribery, conflicts of interest, data protection and privacy, all of which have a bearing on journalism. The Working at News booklet also makes clear that all editorial staff must read the Code in full, be aware of any updates to it, and uphold both the letter and the spirit of it. Compliance with the Code is also a standard contractual term in News UK's editorial contracts.

## **3. EDITORIAL STANDARDS**

### ***3.1. An overview of News UK titles' approach to editorial standards***

News UK, TNL, NGN, TLSL and all of News UK's titles are committed to abiding by IPSO's Regulations and the Code that IPSO enforces. Details of how News UK's titles deal with pre-publication guidance, verification of stories and compliance with the Code are set out below. News UK and its titles take complaints regarding editorial standards very seriously. The complaints policy for each News UK title is set out clearly on the relevant title's website, further information on which is below.

### ***3.2. Dissemination of IPSO private advisory notices***

Pre-publication guidance issued by IPSO is circulated as soon as possible by email to relevant staff on each News UK title and kept on file for future reference.

### ***3.3. Verification of stories***

All News UK titles strive for the highest standards of accuracy and all editorial staff are expected to follow standard journalistic best practice in verifying stories. When reporting events not witnessed at first hand, journalists are expected to take all possible steps to establish the credibility and reliability of any sources, and to corroborate their accounts where appropriate. In using the internet, the titles consider vital to distinguish between verified and reputable sources (academic research, public databases, legal documents, material published by trusted news organisations) and internet postings on unknown or unregulated websites, social media and blogs. Where appropriate, journalists are expected to approach the subjects of stories for comment before publication.

## **4. COMPLAINTS-HANDLING PROCESS**

Please see below for information on how NGN, TNL and TLSL handle editorial complaints.

## **4.1. NGN**

The Sun is rigorous in its complaints-handling and is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations, as well as the Editors' Code.

### **4.1.1. Complaints policy**

The editorial complaints page on The Sun website states that:

*The Sun takes complaints about editorial content seriously.*

*We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ('IPSO') rules and regulations, and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces.*

*For further details about IPSO, and to see a copy of the Code, click [here](#).*

*If you would like to make a complaint under the terms of the Editors' Code, administered by IPSO, please fill out the [following form](#).*

*Alternatively, you can email [editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk), or write to Editorial Complaints, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.*

The Sun's editorial complaints policy is also set out on the editorial complaints page of its website as follows:

- 1. This policy relates to all complaints framed within the terms of the Editors' Code.*
- 2. The Sun aims to handle all complaints as efficiently and effectively as possible.*
- 3. All complaints will be acknowledged promptly.*
- 4. We may need to contact you to request further information, in order to be able to fully understand and respond to your complaint.*
- 5. If we do not believe that your complaint requires investigation – for example because we do not believe it has raised a possible breach of the Code – we will let you know and explain the reasons why.*
- 6. Where appropriate, we will seek to resolve the complaint to your satisfaction.*
- 7. If we cannot resolve your complaint, or you disagree with our assessment that there has been no breach of the Editors' Code, you can take your complaint to IPSO.*

### **4.1.2. IPSO complaints**

During the Relevant Period, complaints were dealt with by the Head of Editorial Compliance for The Sun, in conjunction with the Managing Editor.

#### **4.1.3. Forms of complaint**

Complaints are received in writing. There is a form on the editorial complaints page of The Sun's website which readers can use to submit a complaint or, alternatively, they can send an email to [editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk). It is also possible to submit a complaint in the post.

#### **4.1.4. Accuracy and corrections**

The importance attached to accuracy on The Sun is demonstrated by a prominent Corrections & Clarifications column permanently located on page 2 of the print edition. This states that The Sun aims to have the highest standards and abides by the rules in the Code. It also states that The Sun is a member of IPSO and advises readers that, if they would like to make a complaint to The Sun, to go to [www.thesun.co.uk/ipso](http://www.thesun.co.uk/ipso), email [editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:editorialcomplaints@the-sun.co.uk), or write to Editorial Complaints, The Sun, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.

A link to the Corrections & Clarifications page is provided on the home page of The Sun's website: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/admin/clarifications/>.

The IPSO mark is carried both in the Corrections & Clarifications column in the print edition, and on the Editorial Complaints page of the website.

Where possible, corrections are published promptly with the agreement of the complainant. Substantive complaints which are resolved directly are communicated to the relevant staff and inform future training for journalists.

## **4.2. TNL**

### **4.2.1. Complaints policy**

TNL takes complaints about editorial standards seriously and is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations and the Code that IPSO enforces.

#### **The Times**

The Times complaints policy is published on The Times Editorial Complaints page on The Times website, where the IPSO mark also appears and states:

*The Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ('IPSO') rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces.*

- 1. The Times aims to handle all complaints as efficiently and effectively as possible.*
- 2. All complaints will be acknowledged on receipt.*
- 3. If we receive multiple complaints about the same issue we may make one response to all.*

4. We may request further information from you to enable us to investigate your complaint.

5. We will deal promptly with complaints. Once full details have been established, we aim to resolve within 28 days any complaint brought under the IPSO Editors' Code. If we fail to resolve such a complaint to your satisfaction within this time, you may refer the matter to IPSO. If we believe that no breach of the Editors' Code is involved, we will tell you.

6. You can see a copy of the Editors' Code [here](#).

7. If at any stage of your complaint we do not hear back from you within 28 working days, we will consider your complaint resolved.

The Times Editorial Complaints page also states that readers wishing to make an editorial complaint may do so by email to the Feedback Editor of The Times (feedback@thetimes.co.uk) or by post to Feedback, The Times, The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF. More serious complaints about editorial standards and requests for corrections are handled by senior editorial executives with more than thirty years' experience, answering directly to the Editor.

## **The Sunday Times**

The Sunday Times complaints policy is provided on The Sunday Times Editorial Complaints page on its website where the IPSO mark also appears and states:

*The Sunday Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We aim to resolve your complaint efficiently, promptly and effectively by direct contact with you.*

*If you would like to complain about a Sunday Times story, please [fill out this form](#).*

*If you wish to make your complaint by post, please write to: Complaints, The Sunday Times, The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.*

*We abide by the rules and regulations of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and the Editors' Code of Practice, which IPSO enforces. For further details about IPSO [click here](#) and to see a copy of the Code, [click here](#).*

*If you would like to make a complaint under the terms of the Editors' Code, you have two options:*

- [Complain directly to IPSO here](#). If IPSO decides that the Code may have been breached it will forward the complaint to The Sunday Times.
- Complain to The Sunday Times by [filling out this form](#). We will let you know whether or not we think the Code has been breached.

## **How does The Sunday Times handle your complaint about editorial content?**

*If a complaint brought under the Editors' Code is not resolved by agreement with you within a reasonable time it will be passed to IpsO for resolution.*

*If we receive multiple complaints about the same matter we may make one response to all.*



*We may request further information from you in order to investigate your complaint.*

*If we conclude that the Editor's Code has been breached, we will propose remedial action such as a correction.*

*We will tell you if, in our opinion, there has been no breach.*

*If at any stage of your complaint we do not hear back from you within 28 working days, we will consider your complaint closed.*

*If you are not satisfied with our handling of your complaint, you should contact IPSO.*

#### **4.2.2. IPSO complaints**

Readers of The Times or The Sunday Times can complain about a possible breach of the Code by complaining to IPSO directly or completing the automated IPSO complaints form. A link for complaints for each title is provided on The Times and The Sunday Times editorial complaints pages on the website. The IPSO form requires the reader to confirm the article which they are complaining about, the clause(s) of the Code under which they wish to complain, and provide brief details of their complaint (with any supporting documentation, if applicable).

Editorial standards and complaints on The Times are the responsibility of Assistant Editor, Ian Brunskill. Routine complaints are usually dealt with by Feedback Editor, Rose Wild. Editorial complaints on The Sunday Times are dealt with by Executive Editor, Bob Tyrer, or Letters Editor, Steve Bleach, as appropriate. The TNL editorial legal team may be consulted particularly if Claimants engage lawyers.

#### **4.2.3. Forms of complaint**

The Times and The Sunday Times accepts complaints by email, post, and through the automated IPSO complaints form on the website. Readers who complain by telephone are encouraged to put their complaint in writing.

#### **4.2.4. Accuracy and corrections**

The Times and The Sunday Times take complaints about editorial content seriously and there is a Corrections and Clarifications column on the Letters to the Editor page in the print version of both titles. This appears in every edition, regardless of whether there are any corrections or clarifications at the time of going to print.

There is also a link to both The Times Corrections and The Sunday Times Corrections on the website. The Times' Corrections and Clarifications web page states that The Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. It also states that The Times is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations, directs readers to send requests for corrections or clarifications by email to [feedback@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:feedback@thetimes.co.uk) or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.

The Sunday Times' Corrections and Clarifications column directs readers to submit complaints about inaccuracies by email to [complaints@sunday-times.co.uk](mailto:complaints@sunday-times.co.uk) or by post to Complaints, The Sunday Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF. It also contains a link to the title's complaints procedure and states that IPSO will examine formal complaints about the editorial content of UK newspapers and magazines.

The IPSO mark is carried in the Corrections and Clarifications column on the Letters to the Editor page in the print version of both titles and on the complaints link on the website.

### **4.3. TLS**

The TLS takes complaints about editorial standards seriously and is committed to abiding by the IPSO rules and regulations and the Code that IPSO enforces.

#### **4.3.1. Complaints policy**

The TLS website states that:

*The TLS is committed to abiding by the rules and regulations of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. For further details about IPSO, go to <http://www.ipso.co.uk/>; to see the Code of Practice, go to [http://www.editorscode.org.uk/the\\_code.php](http://www.editorscode.org.uk/the_code.php).*

*If you would like to make a complaint under the terms of the Editors' Code administered by IPSO, [please fill out this form](#).*

*If you wish to make your complaint by post, please write to:*

*The Editor,  
Times Literary Supplement,  
The News Building,  
1 London Bridge Street,  
London SE1 9GF*

#### **4.3.2. IPSO complaints**

The TLS website states that, if a reader would like to make a complaint under the Editors' Code, to fill out the automated IPSO form, a link to which is provided on the website. This requires the reader to confirm the article which they are complaining about, the clause(s) of the Editors' Code under which they wish to complain, and brief details of their complaint (with any supporting documentation, if applicable). The TLS website also invites readers to make a complaint via post by writing to the Editor of The TLS at The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF.

The IPSO Mark is carried on the contact page on The TLS website: <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/contact-us/> and a reference to IPSO is also included on page three of the print version.

#### **4.3.3. Forms of complaint**

The TLS primarily accepts complaints through the automated IPSO complaints form, as well as by post.

## **5. RECORD ON COMPLIANCE**

Details of any complaints against News UK's titles are provided below.

## **5.1. Details of any complaints against Sun titles**

During the Relevant Period, IPSO investigated 20 complaints against Sun titles: of those, nine complaints were not upheld, six were resolved through IPSO mediation, and five were upheld (across The Sun, The Sun on Sunday, The Scottish Sun, The Scottish Sun on Sunday, Sun Online and Scottish Sun Online). Links to the complaints are below.

### **Complaints not upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=03661-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=01506-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05531-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=06418-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=07127-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09587-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00750-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00996-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05094-20>

### **Complaints resolved through IPSO mediation:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=08615-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=08643-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00607-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02728-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=02883-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=12334-20>

### **Complaints upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05157-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09062-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09537-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09739-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=04850-20>

In response to upheld complaints, warnings were added to the relevant cuttings databases so that staff using cuttings to research future articles on related topics would be aware of the upheld complaints and not repeat previous errors. Upheld complaints were incorporated into any subsequent face-to-face training sessions.

## **5.2. Details of any complaints against The Times titles**

During the Relevant Period, IPSO investigated 13 complaints against The Times: four were upheld; three were resolved through IPSO mediation. In the remaining six complaints, there was found to have been no breach of the Code. Links to the complaints are below.

### **Complaints not upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28636-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28167-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=28341-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=01444-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00527-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09541-19>

**Complaints resolved through IPSO mediation:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=11997-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=06584-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09696-19>

**Complaints upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=07966-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=08417-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=08527-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=12247-20>

The upheld adjudications and corresponding complaints were drawn to the attention of all Times staff in an email from Assistant Editor for The Times, Ian Brunskill. Links to the upheld complaints were set out in the email. The rulings were discussed as appropriate with the journalists and desk heads involved.

**5.3. Details of any complaints against The Sunday Times titles**

During the Relevant Period, IPSO investigated nine complaints against The Sunday Times. Two were upheld, and one upheld in part, all under Clause 1 of the Code (Accuracy). One was resolved through IPSO mediation. In the remaining five complaints, there was found to have been no breach of the Code. Links to the complaints are below.

**Complaints not upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=00116-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=08645-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=08369-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=05494-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09155-19>

**Complaints resolved through IPSO mediation:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=09508-20>

**Complaints upheld:**

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=11861-20>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=04817-19>  
<https://www.ipso.co.uk/rulings-and-resolution-statements/ruling/?id=06272-19>

The upheld adjudications and corresponding complaints were drawn to the attention of all Sunday Times staff in an email from the Letters Editor for The Sunday Times, Steve Bleach, on 30 March 2021. Links to each upheld complaint were set out in the email and have been discussed as appropriate with the journalists and desk heads involved.

#### **5.4. Details of any complaints against The TLS**

There were no complaints against The TLS during the Relevant Period.

## **6. TRAINING PROCESS**

Please see below for information on the training that News UK has provided to its editorial staff on IPSO.

### **6.1. Initial training**

#### **6.1.1. Face-to-face training**

At the time of the launch of IPSO in September 2014, News UK, via its Compliance and editorial legal departments, undertook face-to-face training of all NGN and TNL editorial staff. This face-to-face training covered the law relating to journalism and the Editors' Code, and provided editorial staff with bespoke training materials. Since then, News UK's programme of face-to-face training on IPSO has continued, as set out below.

#### **6.1.2. IPSO and Editorial Compliance e-learning module**

In addition to the face-to-face training, News UK's bespoke IPSO and Editorial Compliance e-learning module was first launched to all News UK editorial staff, including NGN, TNL and TLSL, on 13 March 2017. As part of this launch, all editorial staff received a pocket-sized version of the Code. The module covers newsgathering scenarios concerning the Code, as well as News UK's Payment and Editorial Data Protection Policies. Introductions to the various sections of the module are voiced by Stig Abell (Editor of The TLS and former Director of the Press Complaints Commission), Angus McBride (News UK General Counsel) and Pia Sarma (TNL Editorial Legal Director and News UK Deputy General Counsel).

In 2019, the e-learning module was updated to reflect IPSO's most recent rulings and the most commonly arising issues for our journalists.

As training on the Code necessarily covers the more general and commonly-occurring considerations, News UK editorial staff are strongly encouraged to seek guidance on any issues that a story might raise under the Editors' Code so that the specifics of the case can be considered. The relevant senior editors and editorial legal department answer Editors' Code queries from journalists both during the newsgathering process and when copy is being finalised.

### **6.2. Training in the Relevant Period**

#### **6.2.1. All staff**

The IPSO and Editorial Compliance e-learning module was re-launched to all News UK editorial staff, including NGN, TNL and TLS, on 26 October 2020. Since 6 March 2019, the IPSO and Editorial Compliance module has also been launched to editorial new joiners as part of the compulsory compliance training programme.

## 6.2.2. NGN

On 29 July and 24 August 2020, NGN undertook face-to-face media law training, including training on the Editors' Code, to the social media team. The training was delivered by the Director of Legal for The Sun and The Sun's Head of Editorial Compliance.

## 6.2.3. TNL

TNL training is conducted by TNL Editorial Legal as well as the senior editors responsible for editorial standards. In 2019, there was a programme of continuing training in place for TNL, which included targeted seminars on specific topics in more detail for smaller groups. These sessions covered legal and standards issues including the Editors' Code and was delivered by senior editors, editorial legal team and barristers. A specific training session was also rolled out for graduate trainees, the digital team and new sub-editors.

No face to face training took place in 2020, as a result of the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, training schedules are currently being revised to accommodate face to face and virtual training for 2021.

## 6.3 Plans for further training

All News UK's titles will roll out face-to-face training for its journalists again in 2021, following the easing of lockdown restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 6.4 Charitable Giving

As part of our News Corp Giving fund this year we supported charities and organisations that focussed on providing much needed services to support communities impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Our staff voted for Age UK, ALONE, Mind and NHS Charities Together to share the **£100,000 charity pot**.

Over the festive season, News UK also reallocated some of the money that would have usually been spent on Christmas celebrations and gifts to be donated instead to charitable causes nominated by teams around the business. A sum over **£100,000** has been donated across 17 charities across the UK and Ireland. Our largest donation will support **Women's Aid**, specifically helping to keep a refuge in South London open over Christmas. Other donations helped **Barnardos Ireland Mind the Emma Cameron Foundation, Tusk, Save the Children FareShare, Southwark Foodbank Women's Aid, Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Gift of Life**.

The Times and The Sunday Times Christmas Appeal closed with a record £3.227 million pledged for its three charities Fareshare, Tusk and Sported with The Times' Coronavirus charity appeal raising a record £1.1m. Meanwhile The Sun ran its Christmas Together campaign to bring festive cheer to those lonely in lockdown and Fabulous Magazine's care package appeal for the NHS passed £1m.

**ENDS.**