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Sent by email to Charlotte Dewar
Chief Executive Officer, IPSO

Copied to Jonathan Grun
Secretary, Editors' Code of Practice Committee

**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

Tuesday 8 September 2020

Dear Charlotte Dewar,

Intimidation in Public Life Review follow up

In December 2017, the Committee published its report on the subject of [Intimidation in Public Life](#). Three years on, we are following up progress made against our recommendations in that report with the intention of publishing a formal update by the end of the year.

During the review, we heard evidence of an increasing prevalence of intimidation in public life, including of Parliamentary candidates at elections.

Our report considered the role and responsibility of the broadcast and print media in this issue. Journalists, broadcasters and editors should consider how the content they create might incite intimidation by delegitimising someone's engagement in the political process, placing undue influence on their individual characteristics or using threatening language.

To that end, we recommended that IPSO should extend its Editors' Code of Practice to prohibit unacceptable language that incites intimidation. We are aware that the Code is overseen by the Editors' Code of Practice Committee and are copying this letter to Jonathan Grun, Secretary to the Committee.

Your predecessor Matt Tee wrote to update us in September 2018. He mentioned the difficulties in extending your Code to prohibit specific language whilst protecting freedom of expression. The Editors' Code of Practice Committee also wrote to confirm that the Code had not been amended. Copies of those letters are attached for ease of reference.

We are glad to see however, that the Editors' Code of Practice is currently under review following a public consultation in January 2020.

In advance of our review of progress made against our recommendations, I would be grateful if you could write by 31 October 2020 to confirm any steps you have taken towards implementing the recommendation to prohibit language that incites intimidation in the Code of Practice. This will ensure our published follow up work is as up to date as possible.

If you would like to discuss this further, a member of my Secretariat would be happy to have a call at your convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lord Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life