

Lord Evans of Weardale
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

5 October 2020

Dear Lord Evans,

Thank you for your letter of 8 September requesting an update three years on from the publication of your committee's report on [Intimidation in Public Life](#), and for providing copies of correspondence exchanged with my predecessor.

As you note, the Editors' Code of Practice Committee oversees changes to the Editors' Code. The latest open consultation on the Code closed for submissions at the end of March. It is expected that the Committee will announce the result of its review in the next few months. As of now, my understanding is that the position remains as explained by Jonathan Grun, Secretary of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee, in his letter to you of 26 November 2018.

Notwithstanding the formal mechanisms for revising the Editors' Code, however, IPSO has its own responsibility as a regulator to consider whether and how it might play a role in acting positively to protect the rights of public servants and candidates for public office, within its remit as a regulator of the newspaper and magazine industry.

- IPSO produces regular newsletters for parliamentarians (shortly to resume after a temporary pause due to Covid-19) to publicise the services available to Members of Parliament and their constituents, including privacy and anti-harassment services;
- The Editors' Code provides protection to individuals, including public figures, from harassment by journalists and from unjustified intrusion into their private lives;
- Under the Editors' Code, editors are responsible for content they publish, regardless of the employment status (staff, agency or freelance) of the journalist concerned.

The Editors' Code seeks to protect the right to freedom of expression while balancing it with other rights of individuals. Scrutiny, campaigning, and investigation by the press are vital functions to maintain a democratic society, but this does not justify intimidation and harassment. As the independent regulator of the majority of newspapers and magazines, IPSO takes seriously its responsibility to hold the press to account and protect the public. We offer our continued support, including high profile figures in public life, through our complaints process and press intrusion services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte Dewar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Dewar
Chief Executive