

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

29 October 2020

Dear Lord Evans

**Committee on Standards in Public Life**

I refer to your letter of 08/09/2020 in which you ask me to update you on steps taken by IMPRESS in response to your Committee's recommendation to update our Standards Code to prohibit unacceptable language that incites intimidation.

I am pleased to report that we have given this issue serious consideration in preparing for a comprehensive review of our Standards Code that is taking place over the next eighteen months. The IMPRESS Code Committee met last month to consider the preliminary issues that will form the basis of a public call for evidence to inform the Code Review. I can confirm that discrimination, harassment and online threats and intimidation have been included in the list of preliminary issues to be covered by the Review.

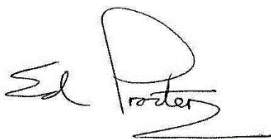
We plan to launch a public call for evidence at our annual Trust in Journalism conference which takes place next month. The conference will feature panel discussions on press standards and ethics covering issues such as race, discrimination, harassment and intimidation.

Once we have reviewed information received during the call for evidence and completed our own research, we will confirm the issues to be covered by the Review and arrange a series of stakeholder meetings to consider the case for change. The Code Committee will then meet to decide which areas of the Code and Guidance it will redraft. We will complete the process by redrafting the Code and undertaking a public consultation on the proposed changes.

Our plan is to implement a new version of the Code in July 2022 to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the original Code.

Please do not hesitate to contact IMPRESS if we can assist the Committee any further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Procter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P".

**Edward Procter**  
Chief Executive