

Submission from Christopher Whitmey

Preamble

Q5: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None. Clear and comprehensive.

Public Interest

Q6: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

The following does not seem to be covered:

Revealing that a person or organisation may be criticising actions of another when their own actions may be similarly criticised.

Q7: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None

PAGE 6: Clause 1: Accuracy

Q8: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

In 1.2 REPLACE 'significant' WITH 'serious'.

Q9: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

It is confusing to use two different adjectives for 'inaccuracy'. Who decides what is serious? In the objective view of IMPRESS and/or the complainant?

Clause 2: Attribution

Q10: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None

Q11: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None

Clause 3: Children

Q12: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None

Q13: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None

Discrimination

Q14: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None

Q15: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None

Harassment

Q16: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None

Q17: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

Insert this or similar: In this clause 'harassment' has the meaning as set out in the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 sections 1(2), 7(2), 8(1) and 8(3) even if it occurs on only one occasion.

Justice

Q18: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

New 6.1 and renumber: 6.1 Publishers must take the greatest care not to publish information before the arrest of a person that such a person may have committed a criminal offence unless the police have first published such information.

Q19: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

It should be clear that allegations of a criminal offence by a named person are not acceptable unless the police have publicly indicated the possibility.

Privacy

Q20: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

7.1 d AFTER 'age,' INSERT 'religious or other beliefs,' Reason: these are just as much a relevant attribute or aspect of private life that merit privacy.

Q21: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None.

Sources

Q22: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None

Q23: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None

Suicide

Q24: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None

Q25: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None

Transparency

Q26: What, if any, changes would you recommend IMPRESS make to this clause?

None

Q27: What recommendations would you make for guidance to this clause?

None

Q28: Are there any other issues that you believe the IMPRESS Code Committee should include in its Standards Code? If so, please explain why these issues are important and how they could best be addressed in a standards code.

None

Q29: Do you agree the IMPRESS draft Standards Code is a practical working tool which enables journalists, editors and publishers to do their jobs?

strongly agree

Q30: Do you agree that the IMPRESS draft Standards Code is easily understood by the public?

strongly agree

Q31: Do you agree that the IMPRESS draft Standards Code is enforceable through regulation?