

IMPRESS Code Review: Call for Evidence

Julian Petley Submission

Submission:

The final part of the clause relating to discrimination states that "Publishers must not incite hatred against any group on the basis of that group's age, disability, mental health, gender reassignment or identity, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation or another characteristic that makes that group vulnerable to discrimination". This is obviously infinitely preferable to the IPSO code, which deliberately makes it almost impossible to complain about articles about groups. However, I do wonder if a publisher might argue that, in publishing an article that is accused of breaching this clause of the code, they did not actually *intend* to incite hatred. Thus I would suggest that the wording is changed to "Publishers must not publish material that is likely to incite hatred ... ". This would bring it in line with the guidance notes for this clause which state that "language that qualifies as hate speech is that which is intended to, *or is likely to*, provoke hatred or put a person or group in fear".