

Ms. Jo Bird

By e-mail only: jobird@cooptel.net

23rd December 2021

Dear Ms. Bird,

I write further to IPSO's Board meeting held on 14 December 2021, at which the Board discussed the concerns you raised on behalf of yourself and others regarding editorial standards at the Jewish Chronicle and your submission that IPSO should launch a standards investigation.

As you know, the decision to launch a standards investigation is for IPSO's Board alone, and the situations in which IPSO may choose to launch an investigation are set out clearly in its regulations.

Summary of Board discussions

The Board has carefully considered the concerns you raised and discussed in detail whether the issues identified are of a serious and systemic nature and whether it was appropriate to launch an investigation. The following factors were taken into account during the decision-making process: the significance of the concerns identified; the impact of those concerns; proportionality; and sufficiency of information.

In its considerations, the Board looked in detail at the complaints against the Jewish Chronicle between 2018 to 2021; legal settlements during the period; the publication's handling of complaints; and its engagement with IPSO. It also considered the submission you made, summarising your position.

During its considerations, the Board noted issues with taking care in reporting accurately and the number of complaints upheld by the Complaints Committee since IPSO's inception. It also took into account concerns raised by IPSO's Complaints Committee specifically relating to the handling of Audrey White's complaint.

The Board also discussed changes at the publication over the past two years including a period of serious financial crisis, the change of ownership in 2020 and personnel during 2020 and 2021 (including new editorial leadership), the size and nature of the entity and its level of engagement with IPSO processes.

Board decision

Concerns regarding the Jewish Chronicle's compliance with the Editors' Code of Practice and handling of complaints were identified by the Executive early in 2018 and have been continuously monitored.

The Executive decided targeted training to all members of the editorial team would be an appropriate and proportionate course of action to remedy the concerns identified. A specially tailored training programme conducted in cooperation with the editorial leadership of the Jewish Chronicle has been developed and delivered during the course of this year. The publication has cooperated fully with these efforts, ensuring that staff attended the sessions conducted by IPSO.

Taking this into account, along with the size of the publication and the changes of ownership and personnel it has undergone during the relevant period, it is the Board's decision that it would not be proportionate to launch a standards investigation at this time before the effects of the training programme and the other changes at the Jewish Chronicle can be fully assessed.

Next steps

The Board has asked IPSO's Executive to conduct a review in six months to assess whether the training and other changes have been embedded in the Jewish Chronicle's editorial practices and review whether any further action on IPSO's part is required. The Executive will then report back to the Board.

I would like to thank you for your engagement with IPSO on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Edward (Lord) Faulks

Chairman