

Rose Wild
Feedback editor
The Times
The News Building,
1 London Bridge Street,
London SE1 9GF.

Our reference: 09296-15

Friday 27 November 2015

Dear Ms Wild,

Thank you for your email today explaining that the article in the Tuesday edition which relates to my complaint to IPSO, (“One in five British Muslims has sympathy for ISIS”) was the subject of a correction in yesterday’s paper, Thursday 26 November.

I have, for your reference, enclosed here a copy of the published article and the correction as placed in The Times newspaper yesterday. I attach them for the purpose of noting the size of the initial article headline and the small space afforded to the publication of the correction.

As you know, the Editors’ Code of Practice requires publications that have been found wanting in their observance of Clause 1 (Accuracy) to comply with the requirement that a breach be acknowledged “in full and with due prominence.”

Given that the publication of the aforementioned article on Tuesday 24 November followed a day of intense scrutiny about Survation’s method of data collection and The Sun’s interpretation of the survey data, including criticism from some of those who conducted the poll, I find the publication of the minor correction an insufficient remedy to the injury caused by the initial article’s headline.

In the correction published yesterday, you have duly recognised that your headline was “misleading”.

I would contend that it was in fact a full breach of Clause 1’s stipulation that the press “take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information, including pictures”.

I fail to see how you could not be alert to the likelihood of the headline constituting “inaccurate, misleading or distorted information” in this case given the extent of criticism ensuing from The Sun’s front page story on Monday.

The neglect, in my view, was wilful and I would ask that the paper faithfully observe the requirement to give “due prominence” in the acknowledgment of its breach of the Code.

I welcome the mediation of IPSO in arriving at a mutually agreeable assessment of “due prominence” in this case.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sufyan Ismail,
CEO