

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

**Our reference: 09296-15**

Monday 30 November 2015

Dear Ms Wild,

Thank you for your email on Friday, November 27 about the clarification and corrections column in the newspaper and your insistence that the published correction and its 'prompt' publication, in your view, meets your obligations under Clause 1.

I respectfully and wholly disagree. It is my view that you could not have been unaware of the misleading headline in The Sun newspaper on Monday 23 November, following the huge public reaction to its inaccurate and distorted portrayal of Survation's poll data.

I will repeat my contention that your failure to exercise due regard as to the headline about the poll, in spite of the widespread rebuttal of the way in which the statistics were presented, ("One in five British Muslims has sympathy for ISIS"), amounts to a breach of Clause 1 of the Editors' Code of Practice.

The 'correction' to which you allude is a scant corrective contribution following what was, in my view, a wilful breach of the Code. The Times chose to run with a headline it should have taken care to substantiate, in light of detailed public debate about its distorted portrayal elsewhere.

I further contend that the publication of the 'correction' was not prompt at all. It did not appear in the Wednesday edition of the newspaper, but in Thursday's edition. That is, three full days after the initial article in The Sun, which had gathered a steady stream of informed criticism, and two days after The Times proceeded to lead with a similarly misleading headline.

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."

I do not accept that the newspaper has complied with the requirement to provide "due prominence" in this respect though you accept that you did indeed breach the clause in the Editors' Code on Accuracy.

I welcome the mediation of IPSO in arriving at a mutually agreeable assessment of "due prominence" in this case and refer this matter now to the regulator.

Yours sincerely,

Sufyan Ismail,  
CEO