

# The Failure of IPSO

After a year in operation, the 'Independent Press Standards Organisation' has let everyone down – except the newspapers

A Hacked Off report

**HACKED OFF**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR A FREE + ACCOUNTABLE PRESS



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# Three years ago the Leveson Inquiry found the country's biggest newspaper groups guilty of 'wreaking havoc in the lives of innocent people'



In response to shocking revelations of press fabrication, distortion, bullying, intrusion and lawlessness, the Inquiry recommended a new model of independent regulation capable of effectively enforcing a press code of conduct. Vitaly, the Inquiry ensured this would not restrict freedom of expression. Its recommendations received overwhelming public support and – in the form of a Royal Charter – were endorsed by every party in Parliament.

The owners of the Express, the Mail, the Mirror, the Sun, the Telegraph and the Times refused to do what Leveson suggested. Instead they revamped their discredited self-regulator, the Press Complaints Commission, giving it a new name: the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

**The papers made bold promises:**

*'IPSO will be the toughest regulator in the western world. It will provide real protection for ordinary people affected by media coverage. It will have tough powers to crack down on wrong-doing to ensure some of the things you heard about at the Leveson Inquiry can never happen again.'*

*'IPSO will have the power to impose fines of up to £1 million for systematic wrongdoing; ensure that editors produce upfront corrections where they have got something wrong; have investigative powers, deployed by expert investigators, to call editors to account; be genuinely independent – with an independent Chair and Board, and no serving editors anywhere in the regulatory system; cost the taxpayer or complainants nothing as newspaper publishers will foot the bill.'*

**IPSO is now a year old. Has it lived up to those promises? Has IPSO raised press standards from their pre-Leveson levels? In these pages you can read the stories of those who know best – people who have found themselves written about in the press and people who took their cases to IPSO**

# FALSELY ACCUSED OF MURDER

THURSDAY 18.09.2014

**MURDER IN PARADISE: THE HUNT FOR KILLER**

**POLICE QUIZ VICTIM'S PAL & BROTHER**  
Backpacking pair who fled island detained at Thai airport

**6 Burmese DNA tested over David & Hannah's brutal killing**

Two brothers are being questioned over the murders of backpackers Hannah Witheridge and David Miller. The police chief Colonel Paulson (pictured) said he was confident they had the killer. The brothers, Chris and James Ware, were arrested in Thailand and are now in custody. The police are testing the DNA of six Burmese men who were in the area at the time of the murders. The brothers are being questioned about the murders of Hannah Witheridge and David Miller, who were killed on a beach in Thailand. The police are confident they have the killer. The brothers, Chris and James Ware, were arrested in Thailand and are now in custody. The police are testing the DNA of six Burmese men who were in the area at the time of the murders.

**BACKPACKERS BLUDGEONED**  
The three of them left the bar together at 1am... we need to find David's friend  
Police fear murderer escaped on ferry

**SLAUGHTERED IN PARADISE... BY A BRIT**  
Hunt as pal flees Thai isle

**BLOODBATH IN PARADISE**  
Two Brits killed on beach after party

**ON THE RUN**  
Thai island murder suspect filmed fleeing death scene



# FALSELY ACCUSED OF MURDER

## THE CORRECTION

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

OUR 16 Sept 2014 report on the murder of Hannah Witheridge and David Miller in Thailand stated that police suspected an unnamed British friend of theirs of involvement in the killings. Although the British friend was not named, we accept that some people would have believed him to be Christopher Ware. In fact, Mr Ware had no involvement at all in the deaths and

**ipso.** independent press standards organisation

was never a suspect. We apologise to him for the distress caused by our report.

THE Sun aims to have the highest editorial standards. You can help us by letting us know if we have made mistakes. The Sun is a founding member of ipso, the Independent Press Standards Organisation. If you would like to make a complaint to us about the code it enforces, go to [www.thesun.co.uk/ipso](http://www.thesun.co.uk/ipso)

Otherwise, email us at [ombudsman@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:ombudsman@the-sun.co.uk) or write to The Sun Ombudsman, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF.



IPSO, we were told, would 'ensure some of the things you heard about at the Leveson Inquiry can never happen again'. Some of the most shocking evidence at that Inquiry concerned false accusations of murder against the parents of Madeleine McCann and against Bristol schoolteacher Christopher Jefferies. It has happened again, very soon, and on IPSO's watch. IPSO did nothing.

## FACT

- The 'Brit' in these stories could be identified only as Christopher Ware, a carpenter from Jersey
- Christopher Ware killed no one, and Thai authorities never even regarded him as a suspect
- He cooperated fully with police from the moment they informed him of the murders
- He did not 'flee' the island by ferry or attempt to do so; when he eventually left, the police gave him a lift to the ferry
- At the time these vile accusations against him were published he was in deep shock at the violent death of his closest friend

## HIS STORY

In 2014 Christopher Ware was beginning the holiday of a lifetime with schoolfriend David Miller on the Thai island of Koh Tao, when tragedy struck. David and another British packpaker, Hannah Witheridge, were found murdered on a beach. Thai police quickly traced Christopher and sought his help in contacting the victims' families and friends. He naturally agreed. He was distraught and alone, thousands of miles from home. He was never named or treated as a suspect – on the contrary, Thai police brought him food and cigarettes and did their best to help him cope with the shock. Later, they drove him to the ferry so he could get a flight home.

Upon reading the British press reports online, Christopher realised that many people who knew him must have believed he was genuinely suspected of murder and really had tried to escape arrest. Meanwhile, journalists in the UK harassed his friends and family in an apparent effort to find 'dirt' on him. When – still in shock – Christopher reached Heathrow, so many reporters were waiting there that police had to smuggle him out of the airport. At home in Jersey he felt under siege, with reporters posting letters through his family's front door every day seeking interviews.

Christopher Ware is an innocent man. You might think that – especially after the McCann and Jefferies cases – national newspapers would check their facts carefully and ensure their sources of information were sound before making an accusation of murder. That is not what happened here.

IPSO made no comment on the case and mounted no investigation. It was left to the victim to sue the Sun for libel: he won modest damages and a tiny correction. This is not the kind of 'upfront correction' we were told IPSO would deliver, and it is nothing like enough to deter papers from doing the same again.



***"What's scary is that it can happen to anyone and there's nothing to stop them. It's taken me and my family almost a year to get our lives back on track."***

Christopher Ware



# BEING BLIND, HOW DID SHE KNOW SHE WAS THE WRONG SEX?

Leveson condemned the PCC as having  
**“no powers to stipulate the form of resolution that might be offered by the newspaper in question”**  
IPSO is just the same

## FACT

“The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability.”

Editors' Code of Practice, clause 12 (i)

## HER STORY

The willingness and ability of IPSO to protect people from discrimination was tested in the case of Emily Brothers, a Labour parliamentary candidate at the last election who is blind and transgender. In December 2014, Rod Liddle used his Sun column to mock her, asking, under a photograph and headline, ‘Being blind, how did she know she was the wrong sex?’ She replied to Liddle the next day in the Independent: ‘When he turns the lights out, does he not realise he is a man?’

With Emily's endorsement, Trans Media Watch (TMW), which acts for transgender people, complained to IPSO that Liddle's comment was a clear breach of Clause 12:i of the Code. Of course, even IPSO upheld the complaint (weirdly claiming that this “no-brainer” was a landmark decision). But then IPSO, supposedly ‘the toughest regulator in the western world’, feebly allowed the Sun to make a mockery of the process.

First, it IGNORED complaints by TMW that, while the complaint was pending, Liddle and the Sun mocked and attacked them and Emily Brothers, publicly and privately. This was victimisation – pure and simple; punishing a complainant in a blatant attempt to intimidate them and to deter others from making complaints.



**“IPSO initially ignored our complaint that The Sun further victimised me and Trans Media Watch. The final adjudication was buried and was printed without a headline. We asked IPSO to enforce its own decision but it did nothing.”**

Emily Brothers

And then, when it came to fulfilling its obligation to publish the adjudication against it, the Sun then showed exactly what it thinks of IPSO. It buried the article at the bottom of the page, without any headline – even though IPSO had explicitly said there should be one. In other words, far from being ‘upfront’, the paper did all it could to ensure no one would notice it or read it. IPSO claimed that it considered the first sentence of the article to be its headline.

The Editors' Code says adjudications must be published ‘with due prominence’. It also says that the Code ‘must be honoured not only to the letter but in the full spirit’. Though the Sun had defied its authority and mocked the Code, IPSO did nothing, refusing to act even when TMW complained again.

Knowing you could be attacked again, and get no effective redress even when you “succeed”, would YOU be tempted to bring a complaint to IPSO?



Scan me to watch the video of Emily telling her story, or go to: [www.hackinginquiry.org](http://www.hackinginquiry.org)

# TOO FAT TO WASH!

# GRUBBY GRAN WHO

# WEIGHED 27 STONE

# DIDN'T HAVE A BATH

# FOR 20 YEARS



## CORRECTION

Thirteen days later, the Daily Star added this correction and apology but you have to scroll to the bottom of the article, past around 10 screens of photos, to see it.

"This article was amended on 29 January 2015. An earlier version of the article stated that Mrs Pearson had a gastric band and that she approached a private clinic in respect of seeking treatment. Mrs Pearson has advised us that she did not attend a private clinic and that she actually underwent a gastric bypass rather than a gastric band fitted, and the article was amended to reflect this.

Linda Pearson an Apology. In our article "too fat to wash" published on 16 January 2015 we said that Linda Pearson had not had a bath for 20 years because she was too fat and had not therefore washed. This is of course untrue and we apologise to Mrs Pearson for any hurt and distress the article may have caused."



## HER STORY

A grandmother from Yorkshire, Linda Pearson underwent weight-loss surgery that transformed her life. She lost 16 stone and was able to climb Snowden to raise money for charity. She told her inspiring story on the website of the hospital that treated her, showing others how they too could lead healthier lives.

The Daily Star chose to twist this into a humiliating attack on Linda Pearson herself. Where she had written that she felt unable to take a bath for 20 years – meaning not that she didn't wash but that she could not get in and out of her bath – the Star called her a 'Grubby Gran' in its headline and claimed, contrary to the facts, that she "hadn't washed for 20 years".

She tried to take a case to IPSO but, unlike any other regulator, IPSO refused to help her and insisted that she cite the relevant part of the Editors' Code before they would consider it. Fortunately she was able to compose a formal complaint arguing that the paper had breached the Code, not only by its distortion of the facts but by "discriminating against [her] physical disability with an insulting,

derogatory and defamatory headline." IPSO, characteristically, took the paper's side. First it said that using the word "fat" was not discriminatory, even though that had not been the basis of the complaint. Then it asserted that morbid obesity was not a medical condition. The world of medicine would disagree with IPSO and in Linda Pearson's case the NHS had considered it a serious enough medical condition to justify an operation.

IPSO also refused to acknowledge the gravity of what had happened. What the Star published in this case was not mere 'inaccuracy'. It was a deliberate, hurtful distortion – and not remotely the first of its kind by that paper. But thanks to IPSO the Star paid no price. It simply amended its story and published a correction and apology where no one would notice it. No doubt it will soon do something similar to somebody else.

Linda Pearson had inquired about possible compensation for her experience, but IPSO simply ignored her. She says:



Scan me to watch the video of Linda telling her story, or go to: [www.hackinginquiry.org](http://www.hackinginquiry.org)



**"It's disgusting that the papers can just make things up, humiliate someone, and that IPSO lets them get away with it. This can't be allowed to continue. Something needs to change."**

Linda Pearson

# TRAVELLER **WRONGLY** **BLAMED** FOR TWO DEATHS

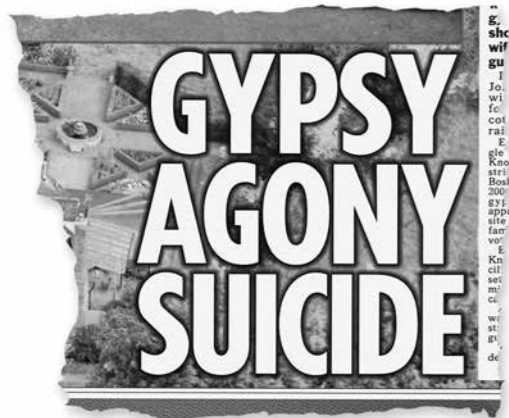
In August last year, in Herefordshire, John Knott, 71, killed his wife, aged 70, before taking his own life

## THE PRESS ACCUSATIONS



### Gipsy camp stress 'drove couple to suicide pact'

A HUSBAND and wife carried out a suicide pact after travellers bought a plot of land next to their retirement cottage. John Nott, 71, fought the plans to site three caravans and a washroom in full view of the oak-beamed home he shared with his wife, Elizabeth. The retired construction executive could not cope with the stress of the gipsy camp and his 70-year-old wife's failing health, an inquest heard. He killed his wife with a shotgun before turning the weapon on himself. Elizabeth Keatley, a friend, told the hearing: "He told me he was at the end of his tether and felt he had lost his wife both physically and mentally. It is my opinion that they made a pact to die together." Mrs Nott, a grandmother, suffered from chronic asthma and Alzheimer's disease. She was admitted to a care home but Mr Nott could not bear to be without her and took her home to their £350,000 cottage in the village of Bosbury, Herefordshire. A few days later last August, he carried out the suicide pact in his workshop. Referring to the travellers' site, Det Sgt Tim Powell, of Hereford CID, said: "The couple lived in an idyllic cottage next to a small field where planning permission was put in for living quarters for a family." The Deputy Hereford Coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing and suicide.



## FACTS

- Mr Knott did NOT blame Travellers for his actions; he left no note and gave no other explanation
- The couple's stepdaughter told reporters she thought the tragedy happened because of Mr Knott's "love for his wife and his distress over her degenerative illness" – Alzheimer's
- Though Mr Knott had been involved in opposing the modest and lawful planning application by the young Traveller, the application was proceeding through the normal processes, and was later granted by the Council with support from several local residents
- The traveller site was not "next door" but 300 yards away, out of site, across a sloping field
- Despite many previous problems over reporting suicides, papers ignored advice by the Samaritans not to speculate on the cause

*"These pejorative made-up headlines can destroy lives."*

Mike Doherty, Traveller Movement

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

After a complaint to IPSO – operating at that time under the rules of its predecessor body, the PCC, which in this case were no different to their own – none of the newspapers were censured. They were allowed to get away with printing a tiny "clarification" for one of the falsehoods in their stories, with no apology and no correction.

## AND AFTER THAT?

In April this year, in reporting the inquest into the deaths, five national newspapers repeated the claim that the deaths were caused by Travellers.

Yet the coroner's verdict made no reference to Travellers as the cause of Mr Knott's actions. None of the witnesses had disputed that - as the coroner concluded - the reason for Mr Knott's actions related to his concerns about his wife's health. But these newspapers reported the "Gipsy-link" as if it were a fact.

There is an ongoing complaint to IPSO about this, and – in order to protect the newspapers it serves – IPSO bans complainants from disclosing the detail of the newspapers' response to complainants.

If the word 'Gypsy' were substituted with the name of any other ethnic minority - e.g. 'Jew' or 'Sikh' - one has to wonder whether IPSO would have treated them with so little regard?



Scan me to watch the video of Mike Doherty from the Traveller Movement telling this story, or go to: [www.hackinginquiry.org](http://www.hackinginquiry.org)

## CORRECTION

criminals on our streets.

### CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

IN an article 'Gypsy Agony Suicide' (August 14) we reported comments from neighbours that a planning application from a family of travellers caused John Knott to take his own life and that of his wife. We would like to make clear that Mr Knott was also struggling with his wife's terminal illness and this was likely to have been a major contributing factor to his actions. Further, the application was for one family rather than two. We are sorry for the misunderstanding.

● THE Sun aims to have the highest editorial standards in the paper and on digital. You can help us by letting us know if we have made mistakes.

The Sun is a founding member of IPSO, the Independent Press Standards Organisation. If you would like to make a complaint to us about the code it enforces, go to [www.thesun.co.uk/ipro](http://www.thesun.co.uk/ipro)

Otherwise, you can email us at [omro@sun.co.uk](mailto:omro@sun.co.uk) or write to us care of The Sun Ombudsman, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF. We aim to correct significant factual errors as soon as we can.

# EBOLA TERROR AS PASSENGER DIES AT GATWICK



FEARS Gambia Bird airline brought woman to Britain

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY ANDY LINES Chief Reporter

A PASSENGER has died after landing at Gatwick airport from Ebola-hit Sierra Leone, sparking fears of a deadly outbreak in Britain.

Medics are testing whether the woman, 72, had the virus. The Gambia Bird jet she flew on was quarantined.

The victim collapsed "sweating and vomiting" as she left the plane. One airport worker said: "It's terrifying."

FULL STORY: PAGES 4&5

UK Border

COLLAPSE

**FRONT COVER**

Docs test body after flight from Sierra Leone

EBOLA TERROR AT GATWICK AS WOMAN DIES

## WE'RE PETRIFIED

Staff tell of tears as jet from Sierra Leone is quarantined after death

Tragic passenger was sweating and vomiting before she collapsed

Stricken doctor 'improving' on isolation ward

Moral bankruptcy of drugs industry

THE VIRUS

THE AIRLINE

66 Mc Super

ALL news

NEWS

SPORTS

ENTERTAINMENT

TECH

OPINION

LEADERS

PHOTOGRAPHY

ARTS

TRAVEL

FOOD

DRINK

PROPERTY

MARKETS

WEATHER

CRICKET

RUGBY

FOOTBALL

BASEBALL

BASKETBALL

HOCKEY

NETBALL

TABLE TENNIS

BADMINTON

SNOWBOARDING

WRESTLING

BOXING

MMA

GYMNASIUM

SWIMMING

BIATHLON

CURLING

FIGURE SKATING

ICE HOCKEY

JUDO

KARATE

SHOOTING

TABLE TENNIS

WRESTLING

BOXING

MMA

GYMNASIUM

SWIMMING

BIATHLON

CURLING

FIGURE SKATING

ICE HOCKEY

JUDO

KARATE

SHOOTING

**FACT**

There were four facts in this headline, only one of which was true.

- A passenger did die
- No one died at Gatwick. She died at hospital later
- No one had Ebola. A passenger suffered a pulmonary embolism, a fairly common cause of death in this country
- There was no 'terror' of any kind – very few people were aware of the incident

The sister of the dead woman, likely traumatised by this fabricated reporting at the time of her bereavement, complained.



## Ebola scare as woman dies at Gatwick

FEARS that Ebola may reach Britain By Stephen Johns landing at Gatwick at 8.15pm on Saturday



**APOLOGY**

Britain's BEST news website... and it's FREE!

NEWS FOOTBALL SHOWBIZ All the latest gossip from the Premier League clubs

Are you on Facebook? Like us all Facebook.com/dailymirror

mirror.co.uk

### 6-DAY MAIL BETRAYAL

Clegg blasts Mylene on mansion tax

Deliveries under threat as profits plunge £74million

Rape victim aid rejected

WE'LL PAY A HIGH PRICE FOR THIS GREED

VERDICT

GOT A STORY? 0800 282 591

**APOLOGY:** In our article of 4 August concerning the tragic death of a lady following the arrival of her flight from Sierra Leone, we wish to make clear that tests concluded that she did not die of Ebola and that she passed away at a hospital in Redhill of natural causes and not at Gatwick airport as reported.

We would like to offer our sincere apologies to the woman's family for any distress caused over the publication of the article.

**THE MIRROR**

In respect of a front page headline that was wrong in almost every respect, the Mirror published a tiny apology on an inside page.

This was another case of reckless journalism printed on a front page. Worse, it was clearly designed to promote public alarm where none was justified. Not only was the publicly grossly misled, but an entirely innocent woman was subjected to misery.

**\*SPOT THE DIFFERENCE\***

The Mirror printed a tiny apology but the Mail refused to admit any error, claiming that it was allowed to print false headlines because the story itself contradicted the headline in paragraph 19.

Unbelievably, you may think, IPSO agreed with the Mail.

Again, with IPSO's assistance, the outcome suited the newspapers perfectly. There is nothing here to make a big national newspaper even hesitate before doing exactly the same irresponsible things again.



# THE MAIL ALLOWED TO FLOUT THE CODE



*“It’s clear to me that IPSO is run by the press for the press, and is set up to work in their interests.”*

Andy Miller

## THE STORY

Businessman Andy Miller brought an action for defamation against the Daily Mail in 2009 after it made a very serious false accusation against him in its front page lead story – and he won. The Mail reported the outcome of the case at the bottom of page two, but without acknowledging clearly that the paper that had lost the case was the Mail. It exploited the opportunity to repeat the false allegation.

The Mail took the case to the Court of Appeal, where it lost again. This time the report in its pages ran to just three paragraphs, again obscured the name of the losing paper, and appeared at the bottom of page 41.

Next, the Mail sought to challenge the defamation verdict in the Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case. This time there was no report at all in the Mail.

Mr Miller complained to IPSO of a breach of Clause 1(iv). The Mail had not, he said, reported the outcome of the case ‘fairly’ or ‘accurately’, as the Code demanded. (And it is worth remembering that, on its own terms, the Code ‘must be honoured not only to the letter but in the full spirit’.)

IPSO, remarkably, chose the side of the newspaper and rejected the complaint. It accepted, as fair and accurate, a low prominence biased report of the original libel judgement in which the paper did its best to conceal that it was the losing party. It even ruled that the first report alone was sufficient, even though the Mail had appealed to two higher courts, forcing Mr Miller to endure a total of six years of litigation before his name was cleared.

Knowing that this is IPSO’s idea of what is fair, would you trust it to deal with your complaint?



## CORRECTION



## Judge dismisses £65k libel appeal

AN APPEAL against a libel victory by a friend of former Scotland Yard chief Lord Blair was dismissed yesterday in the High Court. Management consultant Andrew Miller said his reputation had been “trashed” by claims he had won Metropolitan Police contracts worth millions of pounds through cronyism. Mr Miller brought court proceedings over an article in the Daily Mail in October 2008. He was awarded £65,000 in damages in December 2012 when Mrs Justice Sharp ruled the article was defamatory. The appeal by Associated Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Mail, was dismissed by Lord Justice Maurice Kay.

## REPORT OF APPEAL



# WHAT IPSO IS NOT

## IPSO IS NOT WHAT LEVESON PROPOSED

- An IPSO advert claiming it delivers 'all the key elements Leveson called for' was branded 'misleading' by the Advertising Standards Authority
- In fact IPSO satisfies only 12 of the 38 criteria for an independent and effective press regulator as set out by the Leveson Inquiry
- Sir Alan Moses, IPSO's chair, now accepts that it does not meet the Leveson standard

## IPSO IS NOT INDEPENDENT

Leveson said real independence was essential. All previous attempts at press regulation failed because the regulators were controlled by the vested interests of big newspaper groups. Despite this:

- The Media Standards Trust found that IPSO was totally dependent on the newspaper industry, which has influence - and often veto - over almost every aspect of the system
- That veto extends to the appointment of board members of IPSO, and of the chair
- The IPSO structure, dominated by a shadowy funding body, the Regulatory Funding Company (RFC), institutionalises the power of the biggest national press companies
- The Code is still written and controlled by editors sitting in a committee chaired by Paul Dacre of the Daily Mail - editor of the newspaper known to breach the Code more than any other paper
- No other regulator allows the regulated to write the rulebook and appoint the referee

## IPSO IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE REGULATOR

As Leveson made clear a real regulator does not wait for the public to point out problems and then address the complaints in isolation. Instead it seeks to uphold the Code in any way that will bolster standards and give protection to the public. It acts on its own initiative; it draws attention to patterns of bad behaviour; it bears down on repeat offenders; it protects complainants from being victimized by the newspapers. IPSO, like the PCC before it, does none of these things: it is an industry-owned and industry-run complaints-handling body - because that is all the big national newspapers will allow.

## IPSO IS NOT TRANSPARENT

If IPSO really represented the interests of the public it would be transparent about its activities, but it is not.

- IPSO does not collect data on the total number and type of complaints made to it - rendering its annual summary meaningless
- IPSO does not have an independent appeals process. It does have an internal review process but refuses to say how many complaints have been dealt with, and how many, if any, were upheld
- IPSO's chair and board were appointed only after its publicly-announced rules were secretly amended, allowing the appointment process to be secret, unfair and lack independence

## IPSO IS NOT AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE PCC

- The way IPSO handles its complaints system is virtually unchanged from the universally-condemned PCC
- This is perhaps unsurprising given IPSO was set up in the same offices as the PCC, with the same staff, the same rules - and even the same company number
- Among IPSO's senior appointments are the man tasked with defending The Sun's shameful Hillsborough coverage and the man accused by the Guardian of covering up the phone hacking scandal, and currently in charge of ethics at the Daily Mail
- IPSO will not assist a complainant in formulating a complaint even when IPSO knows very well what the problem is
- IPSO requires the explicit authorisation of the subject of a story before any complaint about accuracy or discrimination can be made - even the PCC didn't insist on this
- Complainants are required to seek to 'resolve' complaints with the newspaper before IPSO will investigate; this can delay getting a ruling from IPSO without any clear benefit
- Despite having the power to fine newspapers IPSO has never done so

## IPSO IS BAD FOR FREE SPEECH

Leveson's recommendations offered safety for journalists from rich litigants intent on killing important stories. IPSO offers no such protections. The proprietors and editors of some of the big national newspapers have a poor record on free speech.

- Several papers called for the editor of the Guardian to be prosecuted for publishing the Snowden revelations about government surveillance
- Most national papers refuse to publish articles critical of their record on press regulation - even though polls prove the majority of their readers support Leveson's recommendations
- The chief political commentator of the Telegraph resigned this year, accusing his paper of editorial censorship due to advertiser pressure

## MOST NEWSPAPERS ARE LYING TO THEIR READERS

- Contrary to the claims of editors and proprietors, the Royal Charter/Leveson system does not give politicians or governments any power over press regulation
- An entirely independent body, the Press Recognition Panel, has been established whose only role is to assess whether press regulators meet Charter standards
- A regulator under the Charter would have no power to prevent the publication of any material by anyone at any time. Its remit would be exclusively to deal with matters after publication
- Freedom of expression is formally and structurally protected from political meddling - unlike IPSO, whose next chair is likely to be a working party-political peer

**MISLEADING**  
Says the ASA

INDEPENDENT PRESS STANDARDS ORGANISATION

**READY TO GO:  
A TOUGH NEW  
REGULATOR FOR  
THE PRESS**

Today sees the launch of a tough new regulator for the press - the toughest in the Western world. The new Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) will be up and running early next year, and will deliver all the key elements Lord Justice Leveson called for in his report. It will guarantee the British public enjoy the standard of journalism they deserve. And it will ensure Britain remains not just the birthplace, but the home of free speech. This is how it works.

**TOUGH SANCTIONS.** IPSO will have the power to impose fines of up to £1million for systematic wrongdoing.

**UPFRONT CORRECTIONS.** When editors get a story wrong they will have to correct it fully and prominently.

**INVESTIGATIVE POWERS.** Where there is evidence of deliberate malpractice IPSO will deploy expert investigators to call editors to account.

**GENUINE INDEPENDENCE.** The Board of IPSO will have a majority of independent members and an independent chair, chosen in a transparent and open process.

**NO COST TO THE PUBLIC.** The entire cost of IPSO will be carried by the newspaper and magazine industry. There will be no charge for dealing with complaints about breaches of the Editors' Code of Practice.

**THE SUPPORT OF THE NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE INDUSTRY.** The vast majority of local, regional and national newspapers and magazines have already indicated their support for IPSO.

**FREE SPEECH GUARANTEED.** Politicians are trying to force the press to sign up to a royal charter written by politicians, imposed by politicians and controlled by politicians. IPSO is entirely independent of all political parties.

www.ipso.co.uk

**“We’re disappointed by reporting and headlines in many of today’s newspapers which contravene good practice set out by Samaritans guidance and Mind’s own advice”**

Mind



# TORTURED

» Star Robin hanged himself when money worries pushed him to despair

» He was so desperate he took roles he didn't want to pay the bills



FOR SALE Comic's £20million ranch

» Two failed marriages cost him £20million, his luxury ranch and vineyard

TORMENT Robin Williams hanged himself in his bedroom



SORROW With his daughter Zelda

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN US Editor in San Francisco

ROBIN Williams hanged himself after two divorces cost him £20million and sparked depression, it was claimed last night.

The star had put his ranch up for sale and took unwanted TV roles to raise cash. A friend said: "Robin had serious money problems." Barack Obama led the tributes. He said: "He was one of a kind."

FULL STORY: PAGES 4,5,6,7

## FACT

- On the day news broke of Robin Williams's suicide, Mind and the Samaritans sent prompt media briefings 'strongly advising' news desks to follow their guidelines on responsible reporting
- Their advice was ignored by the Daily Express, the Daily Mail, the Metro, the Mirror, the Daily Star, and the Sun
- Hacked Off called on Sir Alan Moses – then IPSO Chair elect - to join the condemnation of the Editors' Code breaches
- In doing and saying nothing, IPSO missed an early opportunity to pick up something the PCC dropped



**“Evidence that has amassed over the last twenty years shows that irresponsible media portrayals of suicide can promote copycat suicide attempts.”**

Dr Alexandra Pitman, clinical research fellow at University College London

**When reporting suicide, care should be taken to avoid excessive detail about the method used.**

The Editors' Code of Practice, Clause 5:ii

**THERE IS A LONG HISTORY OF NEWSPAPER RECKLESSNESS IN REPORTING SUICIDES, AND IPSO HAS MADE NO DIFFERENCE**

# THE NEED FOR GREAT CARE IN REPORTING SUICIDES EXTENDS BEYOND DISCRETION ABOUT METHOD

Daily Mail

Daily Mail, Thursday, February 12, 2015

## Career girl who feared turning 30 without a husband or children kills herself



Insurrection: Miss Cole was depressed by the death of her mother

A 29-year-old woman who took her life was, according to the coroner, "severely troubled by a number of aspects of her life". Yet the Sun, the Daily Mail and the Daily Express all ran headlines suggesting that the reason for her suicide was that she couldn't face turning 30 without having a husband or children. They acknowledged in the body of the articles that other factors were involved, but the headlines were clearly, to use the Samaritans' word, 'over-simplified'.

The Mail and Express at least provided the Samaritans' contact details, (something papers frequently promise), but the Sun did not. The Sun's article also included evidence of insensitivity: it gave six anonymous quotes about her life and medical condition, reportedly from 'family sources', 'relatives', a 'hospital worker' and a 'source'. All this, even though the article also quoted the bereaved father saying: "Privacy is requested in this matter."

DAILY STAR, March 26, 2015

## TROUBLED CORRIE STAR SUICIDE OVER WORK

### Body found in lagoon



STRESS: Actor Trevor

by JERRY LAWTON  
**A FORMER Coronation Street actor killed himself as his career nose-dived.**

Trevor Smith played estate agent Kevin Dolan in 1999 but the character was written out. He then appeared in two episodes of Emmerdale, Hollyoaks, and The Memoirs Of Sherlock Holmes. After a few small film credits he was in several TV commercials before his career stalled, causing him to suffer "dark moods". Trevor, 42, drowned himself in a lagoon near his home in Wirksworth, Derbyshire, in January after finding out his dad had died. A police helicopter spotted his body wearing a jacket which he had weighted. His sister Julie said he had become depressed after his career stalled. She said: "He loved acting and had small roles on TV and in the theatre. He believed that he would become a great actor."

At an inquest in Chesterfield, Derbyshire's Assistant coroner James Newman said the actor had "problems with his career, stress and his sexuality". Verdict: suicide. [www.dailystar.co.uk](http://www.dailystar.co.uk)

Again the Daily Star ignored the Code and the guidelines by giving an explicit description of how and where the death happened. And again the paper decided that the actor took his life after "his career nose-dived", although the coroner's finding was much more general – he had "problems with his career, stress and his sexuality".

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT, GIVEN WHAT IS INVOLVED, THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE EDITORS WOULD PUT ASIDE THEIR THIRST FOR SENSATION. BUT NO.

DAILY EXPRESS

Daily Express Friday March 6 2015

## Girl, 15, found dead after GCSEs snub



Toni, 15, was found dead at home. Another pupil at Ockendon Academy died in an apparent suicide last year

By Ann Dwyer

WARD-WORSHIPING "The Queen, 15, was found dead at home last night, a tragedy that has shocked the town of Ockendon in Essex. The 15-year-old girl was found in her bedroom at home, a police helicopter spotted her body wearing a jacket which she had weighted. Her sister Julie said he had become depressed after his career stalled. She said: "He loved acting and had small roles on TV and in the theatre. He believed that he would become a great actor."

At an inquest in Chesterfield, Derbyshire's Assistant coroner James Newman said the actor had "problems with his career, stress and his sexuality". Verdict: suicide. [www.dailystar.co.uk](http://www.dailystar.co.uk)

The Express wrote that the girl took her own life after "being told she was not bright enough in maths at school" – even though the cause of death had not been determined. It also implicitly compared the death with that of another girl from the school a year earlier. In both cases the Samaritans' guidelines were ignored.

*"Evidence clearly shows that this type of explicit reporting can lead to copycat behaviour but despite issuing repeated warnings to the press we still routinely see this insensitive content in some parts of the national media."*

MIND

### STATEMENT

The Editors' Code is inadequate, but it's ignored anyway and IPSO is doing nothing about it.

*"Remember that there is a risk of copycat behaviour due to over-identification... combining references to life circumstances, say a debt problem or job loss, and descriptions of an easy-to-copy suicide method in the same report, could put at greater risk people who are vulnerable."*

Samaritans Media Guidelines for Reporting Suicide



**DOWLER  
DOWLER  
NOT  
DACRE**  
Support Leveson

**DACRE,  
MURDOCH  
ONE  
S YOU  
ORE**  
Support Leveson

**DACRE,  
MURDOCH..  
YOU ARE THE  
PROBLEM.  
NOT THE  
SOLUTION**  
Support Leveson

For Beautiful  
The early pioneers of Prefare  
Years of listening and reading to  
dedicated to skinny but delicious  
Apparently the secret to Pink F  
they put in; a bit like itsu, less  
Welcome to our  
brown rice & noodles, light so  
mayonnaise-free sauces & z  
The talented chefs in our own  
delicious dishes freshly made  
Thanks for all your  
please keep

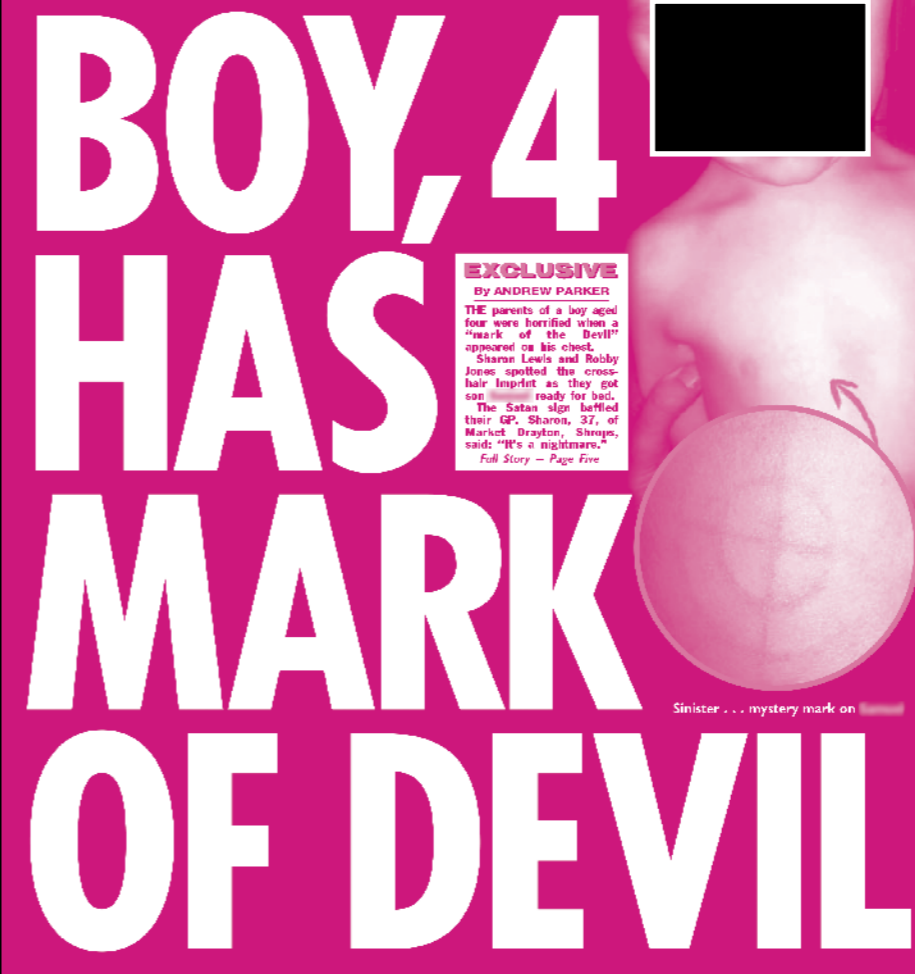
HEY ED

**IPSO IS A SHAM**  
**VICTIMS OF PRESS ABUSE**  
**NEED #LevesonNow**  
**Sign up at [LevesonNow.org](http://LevesonNow.org)**

# PAYING FOR CHILD STORIES DESPITE THEIR WELFARE

## FACT

- The Sun, which found this story by trawling Facebook, claimed when first challenged that it was 'light-hearted'
- Not only did the paper associate an innocent four-year-old child with the devil, but it identified him by name, gave the name of his school and disclosed details of a serious medical condition
- Many readers pointed out that the mark was almost certainly a burn from a hair dryer grill
- Later the paper admitted paying the child's parents for the story. Since this was obviously not in the child's interests it was a flagrant breach of the Editors' Code (Clause 6:iv: 'Minors must not be paid for material involving children's welfare, nor parents or guardians for material about their children or wards, unless it is clearly in the child's interest')



## OUTCOME

- Despite concern that other parents might be tempted with money to sell stories about their children that were contrary to those children's best interests, the complaint was allowed to be 'resolved' privately between the Sun and a single complainant from among many
- Under that 'resolution' - reached at a time when IPSO had opened for business, and published on IPSO's website - the Sun never had to apologise, nor did it ever admit to breaching the Code, nor did it offer any assurance that this would not be repeated
- The Sun published a statement of four sentences tucked away on page two (the original having appeared all over page one) in which it boasted of its supposed record of 'standing up for children' and said that in future "payments involving children would be signed off by the legal and managing editors' office"

## CORRECTION



## IPSO'S FAILURE

IPSO, for all its vaunted 'tough powers to crack down on wrongdoing', failed this important early test. The Code had obviously been breached by the country's top-selling daily in a manner that was clearly harmful to one child and potentially harmful to others over time, and the so-called regulator did not lift a finger.

# IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE & RAPE



## EXAMPLE 1

*'The press must not, even if legally free to do so, identify children under 16 who are victims or witnesses in cases involving sex offences.'*

The Editors' Code of Practice, Clause 7:i

In March 2015 the Sun published a picture of the alleged victim in a case where a footballer had been arrested on suspicion of having had sex with an under-age girl. Though the girl's face is pixelated to a degree, she is clearly identifiable. (In the above image, Hacked Off has further obscured her features.)



## EXAMPLE 2

The Sun published the alleged details of a rape victim's private relationship, as reported by a "pal". It seems unlikely that this would have interested the paper if she had not been the victim in a high-profile rape case; her identity and whereabouts had earlier been revealed online and she had had to relocate several times. Gratuitously publishing private details, which may or may not be accurate, is a clear breach of the woman's privacy and the reckless disregard for the safety and wellbeing of a vulnerable woman raises serious questions about journalistic standards.



## EXAMPLE 3

Video footage of a teenage girl apparently very drunk and performing sex acts in a nightclub, to win a "free holiday", which was actually a cocktail of the same name were first posted on Facebook, but then used on the front page of The Sun. The paper blocked out the young woman's eyes but she was quickly identified, named all over the internet and subjected to a torrent of online abuse. (Hacked Off has further obscured her image). Friends of the young woman said she was distraught when the picture was published; she was even said to be on 'suicide watch'. Rape Crisis said:

*"There are obvious issues of consent here; it is not clear whether this video was made with the young woman's consent and it is not clear whether those who have posted and shared the video widely did so with her consent."*

## IPSO TOOK NO ACTION

In these case – and in others like it that Hacked Off knows of – IPSO took no action. It didn't reprimand the papers, nor did it even investigate. And if IPSO was waiting for the victims to complain, there are very good reasons why they did not.

### Under IPSO's rules, if these women complained they would:

- be forced to first try to 'resolve' their complaint with the lawyers and editors of the newspapers responsible
- would have their names and contact details passed to the newspaper about whom they were complaining about intrusion. There is no choice on this
- be denied anonymity in the published judgement unless IPSO decided there were 'exceptional circumstances'. IPSO has published no guidance on this
- have no protection against further victimisation by the newspaper

# IPSO'S FAILURE TO DELIVER PROMINENT CORRECTIONS

## Accuracy is

*"the foundation stone on which journalism depends."*

Leveson Inquiry

The Press must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information, including pictures.

A significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distortion once recognised must be corrected, promptly and with due prominence, and - where appropriate - an apology published. In cases involving the Regulator, prominence should be agreed with the Regulator in advance.

Editors' Code of Practice, Clause 1 (i) and (ii)



## FACT

Only '1 in 5' new nurses on NHS wards were foreign

The correction was tucked away at the bottom of page two and was at pains to hide the gravity of the error: that only '1 in 5', not '4 in 5' NHS nurses were foreign. This is nothing like 'due prominence' or an 'up-front correction' like IPSO promised.



## CORRECTION

### Clarifications & corrections

IN COMMON with most other national newspapers, on December 17 and 18 we reported analysis by the Health Service Journal which stated that, due to an NHS nursing shortage, 5,788 out of 7,111 nurses recruited in the last 12 months were foreign. In fact, while the 5,788 figure was correct, the 7,111 figure related to the net change in the number of full-time-equivalent nurses over a six-month period only. The Health Service Journal and the Health & Social Care Information Centre have asked us to make clear that the statistics were not therefore comparable. HSCIC's analysis shows that, in the 12 months to September 2014, 7,449 out of 33,838 joiners - including health visitors, midwives and nurses - were non-British.



Champions League Arsenal let three-goal lead slip against Anderlecht Start page 56

The Frizz Factor How Brazilians smooth out their locks Style page 25

Exclusive reader event Save up to 20% at Fenwick See page 25 Fenwick

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 55p

**The Daily Telegraph** NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

**£120bn cost of Labour's policy on immigration**  
Study measures effects over 17 years — and shows recent east European arrivals boosted the economy

**Strictly host's daughter in hospital with burns**

**EU 'hypocrites' misspent own budget**

**Cyberbullies drive children to despair**

**Beaches** WORLD'S BEST BEACHES

**SAVE 35% PLUS FREE MEAT**

**EU 'hypocrites' misspent own budget**

By Bruno Waterfield in Brussels and Peter Dominiczak

The European Union was last night accused of "boastful and egoistic" hypocrisy for continuing to demand that Aved Casareto pay a €1.7-billion bill despite the bloc's own auditors finding to give a clean bill of health to a €180-billion of spending by Brussels.

According to the annual report of the European Court of Auditors, won by The Daily Telegraph, 13.5% of the EU budget last year was misspent because "control was deemed to be only 'partially effective'". The audit, which will be published today, found that €109 billion out of a total of €177 billion spent by the EU in 2013 was "affected by material error".

It means the Brussels accounts have ineffective line-item checks for 18 years. Treasury sources last night said the disclosure shows why the EU needs "urgent reform".

Mr Casareto, who said he will refuse to pay "anything like" the €1.7 billion by Dec 1, despite being the accused with facts by the EU.

The damning finding by the auditors emerged as senior figures at Brussels criticised Mr Casareto for refusing to pay the bill, which was demanded because of the success of Britain's economy.

The audit concluded that the European budget involved better management of a line of "controlling pressure on EU and national Governments on page 2

**Why living in the past can turn out to be educational**

Adam Lee-Potter  
Freelance journalist

**Law should be repealed**

**Technology has now become an addiction**

**Nick Clegg: The Movie?**

STILL 5p CHEAPER THAN THE DAILY MAIL

**DAILY EXPRESS** THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

WEATHER: COLD AND SUNNY MONDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2014 55p

**UKIP SURGE TO SECOND PLACE IN NEW POLL**  
SEE PAGE 5

**FREE 20 PERENNIAL PLANTS FOR EVERY READER**  
SEE PAGE 43

**VEG DIET WILL BEAT DIABETES**

**Meat-free lifestyle cures killer disease, experts now claim**

**Susanna Reid: Why I'm happy to live with my ex**

By Sarah Westcott

MILLIONS of people with diabetes should eat a vegetarian diet to help reverse the killer condition, doctors say.

A healthy, plant-based diet can significantly improve blood sugar levels and even potentially leave patients free of the disease.

An analysis of previous studies showed a vegetarian diet had significant benefits in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes and improved insulin sensitivity.

Researchers found eating a vegetable-based diet reduced levels of a key blood protein. For people with diabetes, this is important as the higher it is, the greater the risk of developing further complications.

**Relief**

Study author Dr Neal Barnard, from the George Washington University School of Medicine in the US, said: "No drug comes close to offering those with diabetes this kind of relief."

"One simple prescription could help reverse diabetes, improve blood sugar, and lower weight, blood pressure and cholesterol. And all this is possible, our analysis found, not with a new magic pill, but with tried-and-true simple changes to diet."

Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in people

TURN TO PAGE 4

FACT

The Independent European Court of Auditors has signed off the European Commission accounts every year since 2007.

IPSO action: none.

FACT

The poll put UKIP in third place with 15%, behind Labour (34%) and the Conservatives (33%). The statement was only true for the category: "Sun readers".

The Express buried this fact in the print paper so IPSO said the misleading super-size headline was fine. The small print was omitted online so the Express published the IPSO adjudication, but only three months later, online.

CORRECTION

IPSO complaint upheld – UKIP poll results

FOLLOWING an article published on express.co.uk on 24 November 2014, headlined "UKIP is now more popular than Labour", Dr Robert Gray complained to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) that the Daily Express had breached Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Editors' Code of Practice.

PUBLISHED: 10:00 PM 24 NOV 2014 | UPDATED: 10:44 PM 24 NOV 2014

SHARE | TWEET | 8 | 156

# THE JCH

richard.littlejohn@dailymail.co.uk

**T**ODAY'S edition of You Couldn't Make It Up comes courtesy of the BBC, which is advertising for disabled weather forecasters, no experience necessary.



## Disabled BBC weathermen? Bring back the bouncing dwarf

The corporation is overcast with quotas - except at senior management level, when quotas almost certainly mean 'professional' and 'middle-class, Olympic-standard qualifications'. They may talk one, but they don't show up their inability to reward, perhaps by imposing an 'objectivity' quota on the lower echelons, even if that means hamstringing square pegs to round holes.

Before the usual suspects start spinning with confused outrage, let me make it clear for the umpteenth time that I have no problem with broadcasting organisations recruiting the best people they are supposed to be striving for. I've written before about my firm's limited Women's Television in the nineties, when my executive producer Trevor Phillips was never far from the scene in the building, pushing a broom or working in his garden.

Things have improved immeasurably over the past 20 years, both on-camera and behind the scenes. When I worked for the BBC, there were plenty of people with physical disabilities employed there, but they got those jobs because they were talented engineers, producers, computer experts or writers. All of them were hired for their abilities, not because of their disabilities.

The BBC's Gary O'Donoghue, currently based in Washington, is a talented political journalist with 20 years of experience, who just happens to be blind.

**A**DE ADEPTAN and Arthur Williams are part of the Channel 4 Paralympians team and disabled presenters with a background in competitive sport, not because they're disabled. They're simply someone who simply happens to be disabled in the same kind of television as the people who have worked to learn to work with them.

## WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, ONLY THE AMERICANS GET GOING

THE only surprise about the FIFA story is not that football's ruling body is riddled with corruption from top to bottom, it's that finally some people have had their collars felt. And for that, thank you to the British or European authorities, but the Americans.

The aggressive U.S. prosecutorial system can produce its own miscarriages of justice, but at least they're not afraid to go after powerful vested interests. Look at the number of crooked bankers behind bars in America following various financial scandals, compared with the reluctance of the authorities here to bring any charges.

On this side of the Atlantic, our Government is either complicit in the face of wholesale wrongdoing by wealthy institutions - or so close to them that it prefers to turn a blind eye.

The EU itself is as rotten as FIFA, just like all over-blown, self-serving supra-national organisations, including the UN.

Fortunately, because FIFA affiliates are based in Miami and money was allegedly laundered through U.S. banks, the Americans have been able to assert jurisdiction. Thank goodness they have the moral courage and intestinal fortitude to act, even though FIFA's crimes have minimal impact in the U.S.

The same goes for natural and humanitarian disasters, where the Americans are always first on the scene with aid.

If ever ISIS is to be confronted and destroyed, that will fall to the Americans, too. Already there's a head of steam building up in the U.S. which insists they can't sit back and watch these barbarians rape and slaughter their way across the Middle East and North Africa. They know the West is next. The 'sophisticated' European Left may have a visceral and irrational hatred of America. Yet without the U.S. they'd all be speaking German. Probably inside a concentration camp.

OK, so not all America's recent interventions have ended well. But they began from the best of intentions. And when push comes to shove, America remains the world's last best hope.

Who else you gonna call - Vlad Putin?

It's no good expecting Europe to do anything about ISIS - any more than they were prepared to take down FIFA.

## A minute's silence for Desmond the Duck...

**T**AKING their lead from last week's candle vigil for Boudie the cow in Northumberland, villagers in Somerset are holding a funeral for a duck.

A drake called Desmond, who lived in a pond in Compton Martin for 25 years, was killed by a fox this week, leaving only a pile of feathers behind.

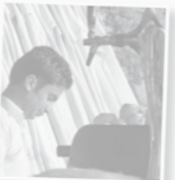
The church flag will be flown at half-mast and locals will hold a wake in the village pub, where they intend to drink whisky laced with duck eggs.

This annual sentimentalism is getting completely out of hand. Where's it all going to end?

Today, it's a wake for a drake. I dread to think what'll happen if someone runs over a lamb in the park on a dog.

There'll be no stopping the Forastime crowd.

Coming soon: National Weep For A Sheep Week.



**E**D MILIBAND was conspicuous by his absence from the Commons chamber during the Queen's Speech.

He's only been sighted a couple of times since Labour's crushing defeat. Once on a plane from Ibiza, another time outside an organic cafe in North London. Where has he vanished to?

Mail reader Don Spurgeon has tracked him down and has sent me this picture he took on holiday last week.

It appears Mister Ed is now working as a barman in Nicosia, Northern Cyprus.

**P**ROM the tea-time quiz show Pointless, BBC1 on Tuesday. One round was on famous assassinations from history.

For instance, who was killed by John Wilkes Booth in Washington D.C. in 1865?

You got the gist.

Presenter Alexander Armstrong: 'Who was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas?'

Deputy host: 'Was it JFK?'

He couldn't do much more.



## VITAL TREATMENT IVF laboratory EXCLUSIVE

By ANDREW GREGORY health Editor

**Y**OUNG women are being denied IVF on the NHS so older women, disabled women and gay couples can get fertility treatment.

At the exclusive IVF laboratory, the NHS said: 'We are under-30s must be offered first priority of IVF and those aged 40 to 42, once cycle.'

But senior members of women in their 20s and 30s are being refused because the NHS is cash strapped.

In addition, the Daily Mirror has found several women in the country who have fertility issues which funds here can't help. The disabled and gay men are also being refused 'urgently' targets.

Campaigners say: 'We demand a parliamentary inquiry.'

# Young women denied IVF so equality targets on disabled and gay couples can be met



## VICTIMS 1

**S**IMONE Sanders, 32, a facilities administrator lives in Hedgesford, Staffs, with businessman husband Simon, 40. NHS Cancer Chase CCG only funded one cycle of IVF for the couple, who have been married eight years. This is against NICE guidelines. It was unsuccessful.

Simone said: 'We tried children and tried for years but it wasn't working. It became the main focus of my life.

'We had lots of tests, which did not throw up a reason why we couldn't conceive naturally. It just hadn't happened.'

It's frustrating seeing more cycles offered to other people

The couple were forced to go private after no further NHS treatment was offered. Unable to afford a second cycle, Simone's parents paid the £6,000 - and it worked.

But less than a month after falling pregnant last summer, Simone miscarried after a car crash.

'I was in bits, obviously,' she said. 'Now we are looking at the next step, but we'll have to go private again.'

'I feel very angry. It's so frustrating to see more cycles offered to others on the NHS elsewhere. Why is it one rule in one part of the country, and another somewhere else?'

## VICTIMS 2

**C**LAIRE Edwards, 35, works in publishing sales and lives in Reading, Berks, with web developer Stephen, 40.

They have been trying for a child since they married 11 years ago. Seven years ago they applied for IVF funding but were told their local health service only funded women over 35. They were then stunned to discover by chance last year Claire was eligible for NHS funded IVF treatment aged 34.

'I was seeing my GP and a letter came up on screen that had supposedly been sent to me. It said the local NHS had changed its policy and was funding IVF cycles only for under-35s,' but NHS Wokingham CCG said as Claire was turning 35 in September last year, she was not eligible.

The couple have now paid £6,000 for IVF treatment privately and feel they have been let down by the NHS.

## Campaigners want MPs to probe Mirror revelations

**M**ORE than three million British adults suffer from infertility. Many desperate infertile couples are turning to cross-border services, asking for money over the net to pay for their child or a family.

Private IVF treatment cost £6,000 to £10,000 per cycle, and up to £14,000 in London.

**IMPACT**

NICE West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, which serves 200,000 patients and some 15,000 homes, has cut the IVF cycles to five under-35 from three to two.

The CCG said that while it had reduced the number of cycles offered to under-40s, it had 'extended' access to women aged 40-44, so no sex couples and gay couples with infertility.

A spokesman said: 'We have a limited budget for under-40s to come to us.'

It says the cost of offering under-40s can be a third of cycle offering one cycle to women over-40 has been 'reduced' because of the 'equality impact'.

In Essex, West Essex CCG can't be funded because of its 'equality impact'.

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Susan Seaman

**£15k**

Price patients can pay for one cycle of private IVF in London

Health. There is also guidance from NICE. They say three cycles should be offered to women under 40.

It says that one of the CCGs across England are thought to be funding the full number of IVF cycles women under 40.

The West Essex believed to be one of the first to link cuts to saving more jobs to over 40s.

Prof Giles Leung, deputy chief executive of NICE, said: 'If fertility can have a significant effect on health, these cycles should be offered to women under 40.'

But the Essex CCG said: 'We need to be realistic about the impact of the cuts. We need to be realistic about the impact of the cuts. We need to be realistic about the impact of the cuts.'

Prof Giles Leung, deputy chief executive of NICE, said: 'If fertility can have a significant effect on health, these cycles should be offered to women under 40.'

But the Essex CCG said: 'We need to be realistic about the impact of the cuts. We need to be realistic about the impact of the cuts.'



## FACT

The BBC was not recruiting a new weather presenter but had set up a temporary scheme offering training in presenting to disabled people.

IPSO action: none.

## FACT

Entitlement to IVF was restricted not denied, and the focus was on helping older women. There were no gay or disabled targets.

IPSO action: none.



**Daily Mail** FEMAIL magazine  
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015 www.dailymail.co.uk 60p STARTS PAGE 41

**Charles' blast at Blair – and what his Black Spider notes reveal about our future king**  
SEE PAGES 6-7

**BANK CHIEF: FOREIGN WORKERS DRAG DOWN UK WAGES**  
Carney's explosive intervention as number of EU migrants working here hits 2million

**ROBBIE AND WIFE ACCUSED OF SEX HARASSMENT**  
Sued: Robbie Williams and his wife Ayda  
SEE PAGE 9

**Open the border - we're off to UK**  
PAGES 12&13

**7 IN 10 CALAIS MIGRANTS GET INTO UK**  
EXCLUSIVE  
By James Slack and Daniel Martin  
AS MANY as 70 per cent of the thousands of migrants massing at Calais are making it to Britain, MPs have been warned.

**Clarifications & corrections**  
AN ARTICLE on August 14 made references to the proportion of 'new jobs' taken by foreign workers. We would like to make corrections in relation to this and previous articles that the Office for National Statistics data on which this was based tracks net changes in employment rather than new jobs and that the number of people in employment and the number of jobs in the economy are not the same. The statistics did not therefore support the claims made about new jobs. We are also happy to clarify that between June 2013 and June 2014, the numbers of UK and non-UK born workers increased by 202,000 and 327,000 respectively.

FACT

Bank chief Mark Carney said NOTHING about wages; his only comment on migration was that "strong population growth [was] partly driven by net migration".

The so-called "correction" only clarified the meaning of the statistics and did not correct the impression given of what the bank chief had – or had not – said.

CORRECTION

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FACT

What Kent Chief Constable Alan Pughsley actually said was that "70 per cent of migrants they [French colleagues] process in the area of Calais leave the vicinity within a four-month period. They cannot ascertain whether these migrants leave to go elsewhere in France, or whether they enter the UK."

The so-called correction effectively tried to repeat the original inaccuracy but in a more circumspect way: it stated that "Mr Pughsley believes that as many as '70 per cent of migrants' could be successfully entering the UK", which was still misleading.

**Daily Mail** Her life in words and magical pictures  
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015 www.dailymail.co.uk 60p

**TA-RA CHUCK**  
Cilla, the innocent superstar who touched all our lives

**7 IN 10 CALAIS MIGRANTS GET INTO UK**  
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AS MANY as 70 per cent of the thousands of migrants massing at Calais are making it to Britain, MPs have been warned.

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**Show**  
Spanish home: The Nation's Cilla died 72 in her living room

**Open the border - we're off to UK**  
PAGES 12&13

**7 IN 10 CALAIS MIGRANTS GET INTO UK**  
EXCLUSIVE  
By James Slack and Daniel Martin  
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**Weather** ARE YOU A WINNER?  
FOR YOUR UNIQUE NUMBERS, SEE BACK PAGE

**China sparks fears of a currency war**  
FTSE loses £24bn as angry US calls for law change

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# The Pilates exercise that can leave you in agony

As it's revealed UK is 27th in world health league, millions wasted on prescriptions for toothpaste, Yakult and Calpol

# £13M NHS BILL FOR SUNCREAM

By Sophie Borland Health Correspondent

**THE NHS is spending millions on prescriptions for suncream and toothpaste, a damning analysis has found.**

Some patients are even being given hangover tablets and Yakult yogurt drinks. Critics said it was 'ridiculous' that such items were being handed out when the NHS was rationing row-line treatments. It has prompted concern that patients are abusing the system, by demanding prescriptions for household essentials, which are cheaply available at their local chemist. The figures came on the day that Britain was ranked only 27th in the world for health and well-being. Below Slovenia, Spain and Portugal and 11th out of 35 countries. In 2014, the NHS handed out 404,300 prescriptions for suncream, at a cost of 13.1 million. Another 7.7 million prescriptions for indigestion pills cost £59 million, while 1.8 million were written out for mouth-wash, at £4.2 million. Other bathroom cabinet items routinely being prescribed by GPs include Calpol, Vaseline, Miralax and toilet paper, according to the Health and Social Care Information Centre. Roger Dixon of Patients' Concern said: "It is ridiculous. Every time the back of packets being denied, another packet is demanded, or refused on one side while the other is being given out for free. Whoever is prescribing this is authorising it must have completely lost their mind." Doctors admit that some patients abuse the system and arrive at surgeries with shopping. Turn to Page 4



## Who is the new man in Gwyneth's life?

SEE PAGE 3

## Tories vow to spend £100 billion on Trident

TORIES will today open up a new front in the election war by pledging £100 billion for a new fleet of four Trident submarines. The manifesto commitment opens a clear blue water between the party and Labour, whose leader Ed Miliband wants only the 'best cost nuclear deterrent we can have'. Defence Secretary Michael Fallon will accuse the Labour leader of being prepared to surrender the UK's nuclear deterrent in a 'desperate bid for power'. Mr Fallon will claim Mr Miliband will stop at nothing to enter No 10 - even if it means weakening the country's defences to win support from the Scottish Nationalists. The SNP on whose votes a minority Labour government could depend, has been demanding concessions over Trident.

SEE PAGE 2

## FACT

Analysis of official data on prescription costs showed that most of the 'cream' was a treatment for skin lesions or skin cancer. The Daily Mail did not print a correction. IPSO action: none.

# Blindness fears over eye surgery at High St clinic

## Patients 'left with worse sight after lens implants'

By Ben Spencer Science Reporter

HUNDREDS of patients could suffer blindness or impaired vision after receiving eye surgery by a High Street optician, experts fear. Safety concerns have been raised over a type of replacement lens implanted in patients by Optical Express, the UK's leading commercial eye surgery provider. More than 2,500 British patients are thought to have received the 'Mplus X' lens, manufactured by German company Oculentis, which went on sale just over a year ago. Oculentis and Optical Express both

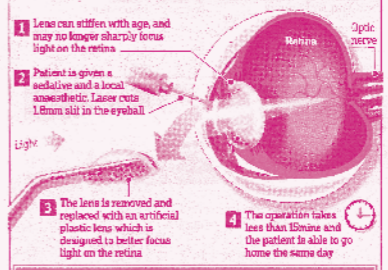


Cherrie Jackson paid £4,200 for his eye surgery

## 'I can barely see six inches'

At 45, Cherrie Jackson needed reading glasses for motorway work, and had noticed his long vision was going. The newer operations later and he can barely see six inches in front of his face. The company director from Haslemere-on-Thames, went into an Optical Express branch in Reading to enquire about £700 laser eye surgery so he would no longer need glasses. A short while later he had started with £4,200, having been persuaded he needed to have the same in both eyes before he could get laser eye surgery.

## HOW THE OP SHOULD WORK



## WHAT WENT WRONG

Some patients who have had the Mplus X lens implanted complain of blurry vision. Some say light is in their eyes and visible sight at night

COMMERCIAL eye clinics are regulated by the Care Quality Commission, but experts claim the organisation takes only a general overview. Sheraz Daya, a leading eye surgeon, said last night that the CQC should establish far stricter inspections and monitoring. He also called for clinics to be forced to follow guidelines set out by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, which recommend that refractive lens exchange is not carried out on those under 50.

The only reason anybody should have their eyes operated on is if it is the only way to get their sight back. Private optician Sheraz Daya, who runs the Centre For Sight, called for far better regulation of High Street refractive eye clinics. Mr Daya said: "The crucial problem here is that most of the cases are 'out there' - that is, they are not being properly monitored. There are very few good opticians, but then you have a lot of bad ones. They are not being monitored."

Some patients who have had the Mplus X lens implanted complain of blurry vision. Some say light is in their eyes and visible sight at night. A spokesman for Oculentis said: "The firm had received four 'incident reports' from the NHS. He added: "We are currently in the process of conducting a detailed investigation. We are currently in the process of conducting a detailed investigation. We are currently in the process of conducting a detailed investigation."

## Roma baby is 'refused burial'

A FRENCH mayor was yesterday accused of racism after allegedly refusing to allow a Roma baby to be buried in a town cemetery. Christian Lacroix, the Right-wing mayor of Paris' commuter town Champs-sur-Marne, reportedly told the family that "it's not by us that those who pay their taxes". They had asked to bury their daughter Maria Francesca, who died from sudden infant death syndrome at the age of two-and-a-half months on Sunday Day.

## Stewart: I missed out on family life

Sir Patrick Stewart has revealed he regrets focusing on his career at the expense of his family. The 57-year-old actor says his work schedule was hard on his children, Daniel and Sophia, and that he missed things had been different. Sir Patrick, 74, divorced his first wife, Sheila Palmer, in 1990 and later married producer Wendy Neuss. He now lives in New York with his third wife, jazz singer Sherry Clark, 36. He told the New York Times: "I missed huge amounts of time... would see my kids on Sundays if I was lucky."

## Message in bottle found 42 years on

IN 1973, Scottish fisherman John Souter threw an old lemonade bottle containing a message into the North Sea. Now, 42 years later, it has been found by a tourist - in America. Michael Scholz found the May's bottle on Jones beach, New York state, and took it home to Cologne, Germany, before posting it to Mr Souter in Lissleburn, Moray. Mr Souter, now 66, wrote the message on June 7, 1973, while sailing with his father and brother on the Sea Scout. He said: "Here's a bit of paper out of an old fishing almanac and write my name, address and the date still the same. He heard from someone within a year, but I'd forgotten all about mine."

## Police in show of scorn for mayor

THOUSANDS of New York city police officers held their backs to Mayor Bill de Blasio as he spoke at the funeral of an officer shot dead with his partner. The display of scorn at the service, where the slain officer, Wenjian Liu, 37, was buried, was a sign of protest towards the mayor, who is seen by some as sympathetic to anti-police protesters. Liu and his partner Shafiq Raza were shot in Brooklyn last month by James Van Der Bruggen, who had referred online to the killing last summer of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers.

## FACT

The Daily Mail correction said: "We accept this is completely untrue" You'd need eye surgery to read it.

## CORRECTION

Clarifications & corrections. OUR JANUARY 5 article 'Blindness fears over eye surgery at High St clinic' suggested that Optical Express risks causing its patients blindness through their procedures and choice of replacement lens implants. We accept this is completely untrue and Optical Express has confirmed that none of its more than 600,000 patients has ever gone blind following any treatment at its clinics. Our article also stated that more than 50 patients have joined a class action law suit against the lens manufacturer Oculentis and Optical Express over safety fears about the lens. In fact, no proceedings have been commenced. We apologise for these incorrect statements. To report an inaccuracy, please email corrections@dailymail.co.uk. To make a formal complaint under IPSO rules please go to www.dailymail.co.uk/readerseditor where you will find an easy-to-use complaints form. You can also write to Readers' Editor, Daily Mail, Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street, London W1T 1ET.

**“CLAUSE 1 OF THE EDITORS’ CODE EXPLICITLY, AND IN MY VIEW RIGHTLY, RECOGNISES THE RIGHT OF A FREE PRESS TO BE PARTISAN; STRONG, EVEN VERY STRONG, OPINIONS CAN LEGITIMATELY INFLUENCE THE CHOICE OF STORY, PLACEMENT OF STORY AND ANGLE FROM WHICH A STORY IS REPORTED. BUT THAT MUST NOT LEAD TO FABRICATION, OR DELIBERATE OR CARELESS MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS. PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF REPORTING ON ISSUES OF POLITICAL INTEREST, THE PRESS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC ARE ACCURATELY INFORMED SO THAT THEY CAN ENGAGE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THE EVIDENCE OF INACCURATE AND MISLEADING REPORTING ON POLITICAL ISSUES IS THEREFORE OF CONCERN.”**

Leveson Inquiry Report, Lord Justice Leveson, 2012



FACT

IPSO ruled that the Telegraph had published inaccurate information in its front-page pre-election story "Sturgeon's secret backing for Cameron", without including her denial. But by way of a correction, only required the paper to publish a tiny note at the foot of its front-page, more than three months after the article was published and long after the election.

The Telegraph

COMPLAINT

IPSO upholds Nicola Sturgeon complaint

IPSO has ruled that the Telegraph's front-page headline "Sturgeon's secret backing for Cameron" was misleading. The newspaper failed to include Sturgeon's denial of any such support. The ruling is a significant victory for Sturgeon, who has consistently denied any secret deal with Cameron. The Telegraph's story was published in the days leading up to the election, and the headline implied a secret agreement between Sturgeon and Cameron, which she has repeatedly denied.

FACT

Ed Miliband did not use the words 'Milly Dowler moment' or make any reference to the murdered schoolgirl. The phrase was spoken on air by BBC political editor Nick Robinson, who was quick to point out that he 'did not quote anyone'. Although newspapers repeated the false claims prominently and many times over, IPSO let the papers off.

Daily Mail

**IPSO ISN'T RAISING PRESS STANDARDS.**

**IT IS GIVING EDITORS A CONTINUING**

**LICENCE TO DO WHAT THEY WANT.**

## SO, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

**These stories are the tip of the iceberg – there are many more. But they are cases where, if IPSO wanted to make a difference, it could have. IPSO could have defended innocent victims and made editors accountable, but instead it turned a blind eye, administered only a slap on the wrist or found a pedantic justification for letting the offender off altogether.**

One year of unchecked press abuse has provided ample confirmation that IPSO is the sham that history told us it would be – and the price is being paid by ordinary people who are put through hell and by the newspaper-reading public, who are presented with far too much that is sloppy, cruel and downright dishonest.

IPSO isn't raising press standards. It is giving editors a continuing license to do what they want.

Many victims have come to Hacked Off to tell their stories. Many are traumatised. Many are angry. Some don't want their cases talked about because they don't want to risk further attack, further humiliation. But like us, they all want something better than IPSO.

## WHAT CAN WE DO? HERE ARE THREE THINGS:

1

Spread the word. You will not read about this scandal in the big-circulation press because those papers rarely report each other's wrongdoings and are happy to lie about the performance of IPSO. So please alert everyone you can to this dossier by social media or other means. Ask your friends to sign up here [www.LevesonNow.org](http://www.LevesonNow.org)

2

Raise the issue wherever possible – especially with politicians and journalists. From housing and education to justice and health, there is no important national issue that is not affected by inaccurate or dishonest journalism. It matters, and those who can make the biggest difference must be told to do something.

3

A new regulator which intends to meet Royal Charter standards is on its way, and we can apply pressure on newspapers and online news publishers (large and small) to join it instead of IPSO. It is called IMPRESS, and in the next few months it will open for business.

**So please, don't let IPSO have the last word. Help us to crank up the pressure on the press and the politicians to do the right thing about press self-regulation – the thing that was recommended by a painstaking public inquiry after a series of shocking scandals and the thing to which all parties in Parliament gave their backing.**





# The Failure of IPSO



With thanks to the brave victims of press abuse and persistent IPSO complainants who have given us the permission to tell their stories, and to the general public and our supporters who continue to generously support our campaign.

The Failure of IPSO  
September 2015

Report by: HackedOff

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**HACKED OFF**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR A FREE + ACCOUNTABLE PRESS

