FAO: IPSO
inquiries@ipso.co.uk

Ref: Jeremy Clarkson in The Sun on Friday 16 December 2022 writing about Harry & Meghan Netflix documentary

Your vision is for a trusted, thriving, free and responsible press, reinforced by independent, effective regulation.

You say you deliver that by:

-Supporting those who feel wronged by the press.
-Upholding the highest professional standards in the UK press.
-Determining whether standards have been breached and provide redress if so.

Under a number of your own standards the article referred to breaches them and you should deliver swift and appropriately condemnatory disapprobation of the publisher and the columnist.

The clauses I refer to are:
Clause 3 Harassment
i) Journalists must not engage in intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit.

iii) Editors must ensure these principles are observed by those working for them and take care not to use non-compliant material from other sources.

Clause 12 Discrimination
i) The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's race, colour, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability.

The Public Interest argument

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex stepped down as senior royals in 2020, and so people's decision whether or not to watch the documentary would be a matter of private interest, not public, and any criticism of the series ought to be more constructive rather than personal vitriol laid at the Black female protagonist. Therefore, the public interest argument, had the content of the article not been so personal anyway, would not hold weight.

Given the standards that the IPSO is supposed to uphold, and the fact that as a woman of colour in Britain I expect this Organisation to uphold them for me and people like me, I expect to see a vocal, decisive and appropriately stringent sanction imposed on The Sun and Jeremy Clarkson for this wholly unacceptable tirade.

Sincerely,

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