

Thank you to the Committee for the invitation to respond on the Editors Code of Practice review. I am increasingly concerned with the following situation and would ask the Committee to address it.

My submission centres on discrimination and the upholding of democratic standards and citizen engagement.

I submit the Editors Code of Practice should require a commitment of engagement and communication to the UK citizenship whom for whatever reasons do not, cannot or choose not to correspond/communicate via internet systems and thereby are increasingly disenfranchised from democratic debate and representation.

In Scotland alone some 500,000 of the population sit in this category and it is unacceptable of the Press not to recognise and uphold this vital principle of commitment here and across the UK.

Editors should ensure and be obligated to ensure through IPSO the Independent Press Standards Authority, that their organisations commit to providing alternative and traditional methods of communication and consultation alongside internet systems. These should be clearly displayed in their publications in upholding an engaged, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equal society.

I look forward to the outcome of the review and all I write.

Thank you
Yours faithfully
Joan McEwen (Ms)