

## Response to the Independent Press Standards Organisation

The Very Revd. Professor Martyn Percy vs. *The Daily Telegraph*

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (online) and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (print), the *Daily Telegraph* published an article in a prominent place concerning an alleged incident at Christ Church, Oxford, involving Ms Alannah Jeune and the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy. Professor Percy made a complaint against the article, which took the form of an interview with Ms Jeune, to the Independent Press Standards Organization (IPSO) in June 2022. IPSO undertook an investigation into the matter and published a judgment, dismissing the complaint, on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

In the course of the IPSO investigation, the *Daily Telegraph* were invited to produce evidence to support the claims that their article of 13/14 May 2022 asserted (e.g., Ms Jeune's purported loss of job, house and prospects as a result of the alleged incident, etc.). The *Daily Telegraph* could not produce evidence to endorse the assertions made in the interview, and merely stated that the newspaper had correctly recorded Ms Jeune's claims. The *Daily Telegraph* made no attempt to address the contradictions and discrepancies in assertions, including details in previous legal claims at odds with what was stated previously.

IPSO did not make any findings as to the truthfulness or accuracy of the claims made against Professor Percy by the *Daily Telegraph*. Specifically, they state that

**“the publication had not adopted or accepted the woman's claims, nor was there any suggestion that an objective finding of fact had been made in relation to these claims”.**

Regarding concerns that the woman had wrongly attributed the loss of her housing, job and PhD to the alleged incident, IPSO adjudicated

**“...these claims were contained within quotation marks and clearly attributed to her within the text of the article, rather than published as statements of fact”.**

IPSO further commented that: **"In this case the Committee has decided that the Publication made it clear that the woman's allegations were not facts, and that it was providing her account of events that were contested"**. Despite not upholding the complaint from Prof. Percy, IPSO and the *Daily Telegraph* confirmed that there were no objective facts to support the assertions made in the article.