

Analysis of complaints

From 1 April to 30 September 2019 the Unit reached findings on 383 complaints concerning 269 items (normally a single broadcast or webpage, but sometimes a broadcast series or a set of related webpages). Topics of complaint were as follows:

Table 1
Topics of Complaint

	<u>No of Complaints</u>	<u>No of Items</u>
Harm to complainant	13	12
Harm to third party	25	7
Infringement of privacy	2	2
Bad example (adults)	1	1
Political bias	69	58
Other bias	97	49
Factual inaccuracy	94	77
Offence to public taste	28	17
Offensive language	2	2
Offence to religious feeling	1	1
Sexual conduct	1	1
Racism	6	6
Sexism	5	5
Standards of interviewing/presentation	8	4
Commercial concerns	1	1
Other	30	26
Total	383	269

In the period 1 April to 30 September 2019, 58 complaints were upheld (31 of them partly) – 15% of the total. Of the items investigated in the period, complaints were upheld against 28 items (10.5% of the total). 6 complaints, about 6 items, were resolved. The bulletin includes summaries of these cases.

Standards of service

The Unit's target is to deal with most complaints within 20 working days of receiving them. A target of 35 days applies to a minority of cases (78 in this period) which require longer or more complex investigation. During the period 1 April to 30 September 2019, 85% of replies were sent within their target time.

Summaries of upheld/resolved complaints

5 Live Breakfast, Radio 5 Live, 3 June 2019

Complaint

A listener complained that Jeremy Hunt's surname had been mis-spoken as "c***" by Nicky Campbell, and there had been no apology.

Outcome

Although the mis-speaking was clearly unintentional, there should have been a prompt apology for the inadvertent obscenity.

Upheld

Further action

The team was reminded of the importance of taking swift action to mitigate any offence caused by the inadvertent use of inappropriate language in a live broadcast.

Any Questions, Radio 4 , 3 August 2018

Complaint

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, a member of the panel in this edition of the programme, complained of the statement in the presenter's introduction that she had resigned from the Cabined "*after it emerged that she had breached the Ministerial Code over meetings with the Israeli Government*": this was inaccurate because she had not been found in breach of the Code.

Outcome

The judgement on whether the Code has been breached rests with the Prime Minister, having received advice from the Independent Advisor on Ministerial Interests. As no such advice had been sought in Ms Patel's case, the presenter's statement was inaccurate irrespective of whether Ms Patel's actions could have constituted a breach of the Code. However, the broadcast of a correction in the next day's edition of Any Answers sufficed to resolve the issue of complaint.

Resolved

BBC News (1pm), BBC One, 8 May 2019

Complaint

The bulletin included an item on a report by the Nuffield Trust, commissioned by the BBC, which showed that the ratio of GPs in the UK had fallen from 65 to 60 per 100,000 people over the previous five years. A viewer complained that this gave a misleading impression of the situation in Scotland.

Outcome

Over the same period, the ratio in Scotland had not fallen significantly (while it had risen in Northern Ireland). By presenting only the overall UK figure, the item gave a misleading impression in those respects.

Upheld

Further action

The programme team will be briefed on the finding as part of a session on handling statistics.

BBC News (6pm & 10pm), BBC One, 11 April 2019

Complaint

Both bulletins included a report from Merseyside featuring the reactions of voters and business-owners to the Prime Minister's decision to extend the deadline for Brexit. A viewer complained that the report failed to make clear that a businessman who spoke in favour of the Prime Minister's position was an active member of the Conservative Party, having stood as a Conservative parliamentary and mayoral candidate.

Outcome

As it could have affected viewers' assessment of what he said, information about the businessman's political affiliation should have been given.

Upheld

Further action

The editorial team has been advised that the political background of contributors should be provided when the subject matter is such that the audience needs to be able to calibrate the views expressed.

BBC Politics tweet, 24 July 2019

Complaint

A tweet referring to an interview with the Green Party MP Caroline Lucas about Brexit read: *'Would Green MP Caroline Lucas accept the result of Brexit referendum where Leave won? "No, I probably wouldn't"*'. A reader complained that this misrepresented Ms Lucas's position.

Outcome

Ms Lucas had said in the interview that in the short term she would accept the result and that this would settle the issue for the foreseeable future. The tweet did not accurately reflect this.

Upheld

Further action

In addition to the removal of the tweet (which happened before the complaint reached the ECU), corrections and explanations were posted on Twitter and the BBC's Corrections and Clarifications page.

Business Briefing, BBC News Channel, 28 March 2019

Complaint

The programme included an interview with Tim Martin, Chairman of Wetherspoon, who was described by the presenter as a business leader *"who wants a clean break from the EU"*. Two viewers complained that the interview was not conducted in a properly impartial manner, with Mr Martin being persistently interrupted by the presenter.

Outcome

In the ECU's judgement, it would have been easy for viewers to form the impression that the presenter held a distinct view of her own on Mr Martin's support for leaving the EU without a deal, and the interview fell short of the BBC's standards of due impartiality in that respect.

Upheld

Further action

It has been stressed to the presenter that the way questions are framed should make it clear to the audience that this is for the proper purpose of impartial challenge and that a personal view is not being expressed.

Claudia tries ear-candling, BBC The Social, BBC Scotland

Complaint

A representative of the Good Thinking Society complained that the item gave the misleading impression that ear-candling was a safe and effective alternative to syringing.

Outcome

There is no evidence that ear-candling is an effective treatment for any condition, and the website version of the item (though not its Facebook iteration) was accompanied by text stating the NHS view was that the practice was not supported by evidence and that sinus/ear problems should be referred to a doctor or pharmacist. However, this was entirely offset by comments from the presenter which recommended the treatment and endorsed claims for its effects.

Upheld

Further action

The Head of Editorial Standards, Scotland, has discussed with the team the importance of accuracy in items which feature or make reference to practices which might be harmful.

D-Day 75: A Tribute to Heroes, BBC One, 5 June 2019

Complaint

A viewer complained about the occurrence of the f-word in the coverage of this event.

Outcome

The word occurred in the staging of an extract from the play, "Pressure", about the meteorologists involved in D Day planning when, despite having rehearsed a revised version, the actor in question had reverted to the original script. While the ECU accepted that the circumstances were such that it would have been difficult to include a timely apology in terms compatible with the character of the event, the inadvertent use of the word in question in this daytime broadcast was certainly a breach of editorial standards which, in the absence of an apology, remained unresolved.

Upheld

Further action

The production team has been reminded of the need to ensure an on-air apology is made, even if belatedly, where there has been an unforeseen use of potentially offensive language in a live broadcast.

Ethnic minority academics speak out over unfair pay, bbc.co.uk

Complaint

The article included the case of an ethnic minority academic said to have been "*on a grade just below professor when she discovered she was being paid about £8,000 less than white male lecturers on lower grades in the same department*". A reader questioned the accuracy of this statement, on the basis that the salary grade structure could not accommodate a disparity of that magnitude.

Outcome

The inaccuracy lay in the reference to “*lower grades*”; in fact the academic in question had been on the same grade as the white male lecturers, and the wording complained of gave a misleading impression of the nature of the pay disparity.

Upheld

Further action

The article has been corrected and teams have been reminded of the importance of making regular checks for accuracy prior to publication.

European Election 2019: UK results in maps and charts, [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.com/news/election-2019)

Complaint

Two readers of this analysis of the European Election results complained that a bar chart headed “*How pro- and anti-Brexit parties have done*” was misleading.

Outcome

The “*Pro-Brexit*” bar, accounting for 34.9% of the vote, represented the combined vote for the Brexit Party and Ukip, while the “*Anti-Brexit*” bar, at 40.4%, represented the combined vote for the Liberal Democrats, the Greens, the SNP, Plaid Cymru and Change UK, with the Conservative and Labour votes shown separately. In the ECU’s judgement, the heading’s reference to “*pro- and anti-Brexit parties*” was somewhat misleading in a context where parties identified as “*pro*” were those in favour of a no-deal Brexit and varying proportions of the Conservative and Labour votes would have come from supporters of other forms of Brexit, and not enough context was given to guard against the inference that those in favour of Brexit had been outvoted by those opposed to it.

Upheld

Further action

The graphic has been removed. Teams have been reminded of the need to ensure that the wider context is reflected when reporting election data.

Health: Truth or Scare, BBC One, 25 April 2019

Complaint

A representative of the Good Thinking Society complained that an item on homeopathy tended to give the impression that it was a treatment of proven effectiveness, whereas there was no scientific basis for crediting it with anything beyond a placebo effect.

Outcome

Although the item included a number of script lines which made clear that the opinion of informed medical experts is that homeopathy was ineffective and a contribution from a GP which reinforced this point, it gave the overall impression that the relative validity of homeopathy and conventional medicine was still a matter of debate.

Partly upheld

Further action

The item will not be repeated.

Heresy, Radio 4, 11 June 2019

Complaint

Reflecting on recent incidents involving the throwing of milkshakes as a form of political protest, Jo Brand said “*I’m kind of thinking why bother with a milkshake when*

you could get some battery acid...that's just me. I'm not going to do it, it's purely a fantasy but I think milkshakes are pathetic. I honestly do – sorry". 20 listeners complained that the joke was offensive and/or likely to incite violence.

Outcome

In view of Ms Brand's immediate disavowal and the context of the programme's wider message in favour of more civility in political discourse, the ECU did not consider the joke likely to incite violence, but accepted that, against the background of a significant problem with acid attacks, it was capable of causing offence beyond what was editorially justified, and should have been edited out before transmission.

Partly upheld

Further action

The adjudication has been discussed by Radio 4's commissioning team and with the programme's producers.

Money for Nothing, BBC One, 3 April 2019

Complaint

The series features saleable items made from salvaged waste. In this edition, parts from a 1930s brush-cutter were used to make a desk lamp which the commentary said had been "*tested to comply with all UK safety standards*". On the basis of previous correspondence with the BBC, a viewer complained that it had not been tested to the appropriate standard, and that the item might have the effect of encouraging dangerous imitation.

Outcome

In view of the rarity of the salvaged item in this instance, the ECU saw little likelihood of imitation, but accepted that the claim of compliance with safety standards was inaccurate. It had been made on the understanding that the lamp could be classed and tested as second-hand, but the Chartered Trading Standards Institute does not regard re-purposed items incorporating an electrical element as second-hand for regulatory purposes, and different tests are required.

Partly upheld

Further action

All electrical items made on the programme will be tested to ensure they comply with the relevant standards.

New Year's Solutions, Radio 4, 2 January 2019

Complaint

This programme, offering "*everyday solutions to the climate crisis*" included the advice that putting denim jeans in the deep freeze would disinfect them while economising on the energy and water used in washing them. A listener complained that this advice was misleading.

Outcome

The disinfectant effect of freezing on the microbes most likely to be found in jeans is slight, and the advice was misleading.

Upheld

Further action

The programme was edited and replaced on BBC Sounds and will not be rebroadcast in its original form.

Newsnight, BBC Two, 19 June 2019

Complaint

The programme included a report on special educational needs provision. A viewer complained that it did not make clear that different considerations applied in Scotland.

Outcome

The report was based on the results of Freedom of Information requests to English local authorities, and should have made clear that it related only to England.

Upheld

Further action

Newsnight's senior editors have reasserted to all journalists on the programme the need to remain mindful of devolved matters, and to ensure that regional differences are reflected in coverage when they are material to an understanding of the story.

Newsnight, BBC Two, 15 July 2019

Complaint

The programme included a discussion about Brexit between Rod Liddle, columnist and author of a book about Brexit called "The Great Betrayal" and Tom Baldwin of the People's Vote campaign. A viewer complained that the presenter Emily Maitlis was sneering and bullying towards Mr Liddle and in doing so exemplified the way the BBC views Leave voters.

Outcome

The ECU did not agree that it was possible to deduce Emily Maitlis' view on Brexit from the discussion. It also believed that it was valid to press Mr Liddle on his personal views and noted that he had the opportunity to defend himself vigorously. However it was insufficiently clear that this was not Ms Maitlis's view of Mr Liddle but that of his critics, and the persistent and personal nature of the criticism risked leaving her open to the charge that she had failed to be even-handed between the two guests.

Upheld

Further action

The programme has been reminded of the need to ensure rigorous questioning of controversial views does not lead to a perceived lack of impartiality.

North West Tonight, BBC One (North West), 18 April 2019

Complaint

The programme included a report that the Labour Party had defended its disciplinary procedures "*after two North West members accused of anti-Semitic comments were readmitted to the party*", one of the members in question being Sian Bloor, a union official from Trafford. A correction was later posted to make clear that it was inaccurate to say Ms Bloor had been readmitted to the party, as her membership had not been suspended in the first place. Ms Bloor complained to the ECU about this inaccuracy, about the photograph of her used to illustrate the story, and about the statement (in both the original report and the correction) that she had been "*sanctioned for Twitter posts about Zionists*" when the Labour Party had in fact imposed no sanction.

Outcome

In the ECU's judgement, the published correction, together with a personal apology from the programme-makers, sufficed to resolve the first issue of inaccuracy, while the

choice of photograph was unlikely to have swayed viewers' opinions of Ms Bloor one way or the other. The source for the statement that she had been sanctioned was an authoritative one and, although she latter provided a letter from the Labour Party as evidence that it was incorrect, the terms of the letter seemed to the ECU to warrant the use of the term "sanctioned".

Resolved

Nuclear: Energy bills "used to subsidise submarines", bbc.co.uk

Complaint

A reader complained that the article gave a misleading impression of the level of price support for electricity generated by offshore wind turbines (compared with nuclear energy).

Outcome

The article said *"It was once forecast that nuclear energy would be too cheap to meter. But it's clear now that bill-payers will give price support to the Hinkley Point C nuclear station at a cost of £92.50 per megawatt hour, compared with about £55 for offshore wind"*. While the figure of £92.50 accurately represented the price per megawatt hour of energy to be generated by the new nuclear plant at Hinkley Point, the figure of £55 approximated to the lowest price among the three most recently-awarded contracts for offshore wind power, which ranged from £57.50 to £74.75 and averaged about £64 per megawatt hour. This gave a materially misleading impression of the cost comparison.

Upheld

Further action

The article has been amended to give a more precise context.

Protests disrupting fuel supplies in France, bbc.co.uk

Complaint

A reader of this article on the blockade of fuel depots by gilet jaune protesters complained that the accompanying picture was of Greenpeace demonstrators

Outcome

A stock photograph of Greenpeace protesters from June 2018 had been used in error.

Upheld

Further action

The incorrect picture was removed from the page, and a correction and explanation was added. The team has been reminded of the need to take care when choosing stock photos, ensuring that they accurately represent the story in which they appear.

Question Time, BBC One, 17 January 2019

Complaint

The ECU received 22 complaints about the treatment of Diane Abbott MP during and immediately before the recording of this edition of the programme. 15 of them complained that a misleading impression about the standing of the Labour and Conservative Parties in the opinion polls, though subsequently acknowledged by the BBC, had not been properly corrected.

Outcome

The ECU found no grounds for the suggestion that the presenter, Fiona Bruce, had referred to Ms Abbott during the preliminaries to the recording in terms which were

discriminatory or likely to prejudice the studio audience against her, and nothing to support the view that Ms Bruce's conduct of the discussion was less than even-handed. There was, however, a misleading impression arising from an exchange in which another panellist said Labour was "*way behind*", "*miles behind*" and "*six points behind*" in the polls. Ms Abbott replied "*Just as a point of information, currently we're kind of, in the polls overall, we'er kind of level pegging*", at which point Ms Bruce interjected "*But you're behind, Diane...Definitely*". Subsequent corrections on social media and on the BBC website "Corrections and Clarifications" page made clear that Ms Bruce had in mind a poll published on the morning of the programme which showed a Conservative lead (of 5%), while saying Ms Abbott was "*also right*" with reference to recent polling as a whole, and a correction by Ms Bruce in the 24 January edition of the programme echoed this. The ECU, while acknowledging these extensive efforts to set the record straight, took the view that the effect of Ms Bruce's intervention went beyond generating confusion between different sets of polling data, suggesting that, contrary to what Ms Abbott had said, the overall data then current showed a definite Conservative lead, and that the corrections did not entirely rectify that impression.

Partly upheld

Further action

The Editorial Director of BBC News has discussed the finding with the programme team, and the posting on the BBC Corrections and Clarifications page has been emended to reflect the finding's terms.

Six Nations: 100 Wales v England tickets cancelled, bbc.co.uk

Complaint

The Managing Director of VU Limited, a sports hospitality company, complained that the article wrongly reported that there had been an injunction against the company in 2017 which led to 200 tickets for a Wales-Ireland rugby match being cancelled.

Outcome

The 2017 injunction was in fact against another company, Evental Limited. Independently of the ECU's investigation, however, the text of the article was amended and a correction added which made the nature of the error clear. In the ECU's view, this resolved the issue of complaint.

Resolved

South East Today, BBC One (South East), 4 September 2017

Complaint

The programme featured an investigation into the Chief Executive of a fundraising organisation which sent parcels to British troops, who was alleged to have used his contacts to sexually pester the wives of serving soldiers. The Chief Executive complained that the report was materially misleading and that he had not been given the opportunity to respond to the specific claims made about him.

Outcome

The ECU found that the claims made about the Chief Executive were soundly based and the reporter was entitled to rely on a Facebook message posted in his name for information. It agreed, however, that insufficient efforts had been made to contact him ahead of the broadcast and therefore upheld that aspect of his complaint.

Partly Upheld

Further action

The Editor of **South East Today** re-emphasised to the programme team the requirement to provide a fair opportunity to respond to allegations.

Sunday Breakfast, Radio 5 Live, 15 May 2019

Complaint

The programme included an item on HMRC's "loan charge", a provision introduced in April 2019 to levy a charge on loans to employees now deemed to be disguised remuneration. A listener complained that it was one-sided.

Outcome

Though the item reflected the fact that the provision has attracted widespread criticism, it fell short of due impartiality by not including any representation of HMRC's response.

Upheld

Further action

The programme team has been advised of the need to reflect an official response, even where no-one is available to contribute to the on-air discussion.

The Friday Football Social, Radio 5 Live, 29 March 2019

Complaint

A former footballer who was a guest on the programme was asked his opinion about Brexit. Identifying himself as a Remain supporter, he said "*I don't know what it was built on, leaving the EU. I think it was built on the same bigot [sic] uneducated kind of view we have on what we talked about earlier when we talked about racism*". A listener complained that this breached the BBC's standards of due impartiality.

Outcome

There being no balancing view, the programme did not observe due impartiality.

Upheld

Further action

The Head of Digital & Radio Sport has reminded those involved of the need for ensuring a balancing view is put forward in such circumstances.

The James Hansen Show, BBC Bristol, 2 March 2019

Complaint

A listener complained that the song "Hartcliffe Lass" was offensive.

Outcome

The song, a parody of Blondie's "Heart of Glass" which was unflattering towards residents of the Hartcliffe area of Bristol, included sexual references inappropriate for a Saturday daytime programme with potential appeal to a broad age-range. However, the song had been removed from iPlayer and James Hansen had broadcast an apology for broadcasting it before the ECU became involved, which sufficed to resolve the issues of complaint.

Resolved

The Stephen Nolan Show, BBC Radio 5 Live, 17 February 2019

Complaint

The programme included a discussion of Martina Navratilova's recently-published views on trans women athletes, in which the trans woman cyclist Rachel McKinnon

participated. Five listeners objected to the fact that an invitation to another speaker, Nicola Williams, had been withdrawn after Dr McKinnon had made that a condition of her own participation, and complained that the resulting discussion was one-sided.

Outcome

The decision to accept Dr McKinnon's terms was a matter for the programme-makers' editorial discretion (exercised in view of the fact that Ms Navratilova had cited Dr McKinnon in the article in question and that Dr Williams would be invited to take part in a subsequent edition of the programme), and not a matter for judgement by the ECU. In Dr Williams' absence, however, there was no challenge to the views expressed by Dr McKinnon, either from the presenter or the other guest, and the result was not duly impartial.

Upheld

Further action

The programme team has been asked to ensure that debates properly reflect due impartiality either in their casting or in the nature of the questioning.

Today, Radio 4, 14 December 2018

Is US military cloud safe from Russia? Fears over sensitive data", bbc.co.uk

Complaint

The programme and associated online article reported on alleged concerns arising from plans to move US Defense Department data to the cloud, Amazon Web Services (AWS) having participated in the related public tender. AWS UK Ltd complained that the claims made were inaccurate, unfair and unbalanced in a number of respects.

Outcome

Whilst the ECU did not uphold all of the complaints made, it found that the suggestion that awarding the contract to AWS may constitute a security threat could not be justified.

Partly upheld

Further action

The online article and associated material has been taken down and a correction has been put on the Corrections and Clarifications page of bbc.co.uk.

Tweet by Gary Robertson, 10 July 2019

Complaint

Gary Robertson, the presenter of Radio Scotland's **Good Morning Scotland**, posted a tweet which began with the statement "*It's 30 years since Mo Johnston became the first ever Catholic player to sign for Rangers*". Following complaints, the tweet was taken down and replaced by one saying "*The programme (Good Morning Scotland) and tweet should have referred to Maurice Johnston as the first 'high-profile' Catholic player to sign for Rangers. Thank you to all who brought this error to our attention*". A reader of both tweets complained that the second did not adequately correct the first, as John Spencer, who preceded Johnston, was also a Catholic and a high-profile player.

Outcome

While John Spencer might be regarded as a high-profile player in his time, he had referred to himself in a 2011 interview as "*flying under the radar*" before Johnston's signing, with the implication that he was careful to avoid advertising his Catholic background. In contrast, Johnston's Catholic adherence was the subject of much

comment at the time of his signing. In that context, the description of him as the first “*high-profile’ Catholic*” player sufficed as a correction of the original error.

Resolved

Tweet by Nick Robinson, 26 February 2019

Complaint

In response to the claim of Chris Williams MP (in an interview with him earlier that day) never to have seen anti-Semitism in the Labour Party, Nick Robinson tweeted “*Did you forget you’d agreed to screen a film in Parliament by a woman suspended from Labour for saying the Jews controlled the slave trade?*”. A reader complained that this was inaccurate, in that the woman in question (Jackie Walker) had been the subject, not the maker, of the film, and that the phrase “*the Jews controlled the slave trade*” misrepresented what she had in fact said.

Outcome

Ms Walker was the subject, not the maker of the film, but this element of inaccuracy was immaterial to an understanding of the issue raised by the tweet. But her original words (in response to a friend who had raised the question of “*the debt*” owed to the Jews because of the Holocaust) were “*Oh yes – and I hope you feel the same towards the African holocaust? My ancestors were involved in both – on all sides as I’m sure you know, millions more Africans were killed in the African holocaust and their oppression continues today on a global scale in a way it doesn’t for Jews... and many Jews (my ancestors too) were the chief financiers of the sugar and slave trade which is of course why there were so many early synagogues in the Caribbean. So who are victims and what does it mean? We are victims and perpetrators to some extent through choice. And having been a victim does not give you a right to be a perpetrator*”. Even allowing for the element of compression often seen in tweets, Nick Robinson’s paraphrase gave an insufficiently accurate impression of Ms Walker’s actual words.

Partly upheld

Further action

Nick Robinson tweeted that he accepted the BBC Complaints process finding that his paraphrase gave “*an insufficiently accurate impression*”.

Up All Night, Radio 5 Live, 21 December 2018

Complaint

The programme included an interview about the political situation in Spain with Irene Lozano, the Secretary of State for Global Spain. A listener complained that terms used by both Ms Lozano and the interviewer had given the false impression that the leaders of the Catalan independence movement had been convicted of crimes.

Outcome

As was made clear in the interview, the trial of Catalan leaders had not yet begun. However, the use of terms such as “*these crimes that they committed*” by the interviewer and “*political leaders that have committed criminal offenses*” by Ms Lozano conveyed the false impression that their guilt had already been established.

Upheld

Further action

The presenter has been reminded of the importance of precise language, especially when legal proceedings are imminent.

Victoria Derbyshire, BBC Two, 25 April 2019

Complaint

The programme included a discussion on the involvement of girls in gang crime. A viewer complained that one of the participants, Claudia Webbe, was not identified as a senior member of the Labour Party.

Outcome

Ms Webbe was introduced as the former Chair of Operation Trident, set up to tackle gun and gang crime in London, which established her qualifications as a participant and would have sufficed if the discussion had kept clear of party political issues. However, Ms Webbe's citation of "*government-led austerity since 2010*" as a salient component of the problem took it into an area where the information that she was a member of the Labour Party's National Executive would have been relevant to viewers' understanding of her contribution.

Upheld

Further action

The programme team has been reminded of the importance of ensuring relevant background details are included to allow audiences to judge the nature of a contributor's comments.

What did we learn from the Bank of England?, bbc.co.uk

Complaint

A reader of this article complained that it misleadingly presented the Bank of England's Financial Stability Report of November 2018 as containing a forecast for the impact of a disorderly Brexit on the UK economy, and that the article remained misleading despite successive alterations.

Outcome

The Financial Stability Report contained the results of stress-testing the UK banking system, and found that the system was resilient even in the event of "*a severe economic shock*" resulting from "*a disorderly Brexit, with no deal and no transition period*", and the ECU agreed that the article as originally worded conveyed the misleading that the Bank had issued an economic forecast for that contingency. However, the effect of the successive alterations was to make clear that the economic impact envisaged in the Bank's report related to the most extreme and least probable of a range of scenarios and, in the ECU's judgement, they sufficed to resolve the issues of complaint.

Resolved