



Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

Why no answers?

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To: Enock Nyariki <enyariki@poynter.org>

Sat, Aug 27, 2022 at 3:50 PM

Hi Enock.

You don't know how delighted I am to receive your email, especially if it means somebody I emailed deliberately shared my outreach message with you.

As before, I am asking questions with the aim of improving IFCN transparency. The IFCN publishes too little explaining its processes and activities. **I need answers I am allowed to publish**, and even better if they're attributable.

I was in the process of writing an article where I try to guess at the legitimate reasons the IFCN might have for not answering many of my emails over the years. I can probably spike that article (or at least greatly rework it) if I get the answer straight from the IFCN.

1) Why has the IFCN typically refrained from answering email inquiries from zebrafactcheck@gmail.com?

2) In the first of the two ignored message examples I used as examples in my most recent outreach to the IFCN, I noted that a PolitiFact fact check supported a complaint I made about [a 2019 IFCN fact check review](#) (via "outside assessor"). Science Feedback/Climate Feedback said abortion is unequivocally used to treat ectopic pregnancy. PolitiFact said it wasn't so clear, quoting a doctor who performs the procedure as saying she never thought of it as an abortion. The outside assessor found no problem with the fact check apart from citing biased experts. This points up a problem with the review process as it existed at the time. And, as noted in my email, that situation is hardly improved if Science Feedback itself now bears responsibility for adjudicating its own fact check decisions. **Does the IFCN acknowledge flaws in the 2019 review, and does it have any specific plans to improve the review process where the challenged fact checks may result in social media censorship?**

My thought is to add these Q&A's to this series graciously enabled by former IFCN director Alexios Mantzaris. I'll rebrand it as **Q&A with the IFCN** with your permission. Also with your permission, I will make emails (starting with the one I'm writing now) in this series available to readers, as written, as non-indexed (for search engine purposes) [resource pages](#). It's part of my very serious approach to radical transparency.

Of course you may ask that I keep portions of your responses off-the-record and I will honor that by blocking out those parts of the emails.

Like so, except that with a .pdf file block overlay it won't be possible to read it simply by highlighting the text with the cursor.

Thanks! Have a great remainder to your weekend.

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