

**Statement from Microsoft spokesperson:**

In 2020 we began the transition from MSN, our former news offering, to Microsoft Start – a personalised feed that launched in 2021. With this transition we shifted to aggregated content published by partners that is tailored by an algorithm to the interests of our audiences. We align with industry-standard content policies that apply to content from both our partners and user-generated comments. As with any product or service, we continue to adjust our processes and are constantly updating our existing policies and defining new ones to handle emerging trends.

We have deactivated Microsoft-generated polls for all news articles, and we are investigating the cause of the inappropriate content. A poll should not have appeared alongside an article of this nature, and we are taking steps to help prevent this kind of error from reoccurring in the future.