



Press Recognition Panel
Mappin House
4 Winsley Street
London W1W 8HF

The Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
Mr Whittingdale
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

25 April 2016

Dear Secretary of State

PRP's annual report on the recognition system

As you know, the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) was created under a Royal Charter as part of a new system of regulatory oversight to ensure the freedom of the press whilst also protecting the interests of the public.

In September 2015 we announced that regulators could apply to the PRP for recognition that they meet the Charter criteria, if they wished to do so. IMPRESS has applied to the PRP for recognition and we are currently assessing their application. The Independent Press Standard Organisation (IPSO) does not intend to apply for recognition.

As you are aware, the Charter sits alongside the Crime and Courts Act 2013. One of the Act's purposes is to enact changes to press regulation that are designed to encourage publishers to join to approved regulators. The exemplary damages provisions of the Act came into force in November 2015. We noted your announcement in October 2015 that you were not convinced that the time was right for the introduction of the costs provisions in the Act, and that you planned to examine the matter further in the coming weeks before taking any decision. It would be useful for us to know whether you have now made that decision and if not, when you anticipate it will be made.

The Charter requires the PRP to report on the extent to which the new system of regulatory oversight has succeeded in its aims. The PRP Board will fulfil this requirement when we publish our State of Recognition Report later this year.

In producing this report, we consider it important that we are mindful of the full range of views and perspectives, so we have launched a public call for information and we are writing to those who we know have an interest in our work.

It would be helpful to know your views on whether the new system for overseeing press regulation in the UK been a success or failure so far, and your reasoning. We would also be keen to know your views on what factors or issues might be affecting publishers' decisions

about whether or not to sign up to the recognition system, and indeed hear anything else that you would like to tell us to help us evaluate the new system.

I sincerely hope that you would be interested in sharing your views with us either in writing or in person.

If you would be happy to meet in person, then our teams can liaise to identify a suitable date. We generally hold our meetings with stakeholders in private but an agreed note of the discussion is published on our website afterwards.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wolfe', written over a large, light-colored circular scribble.

David Wolfe
Chair of the Press Recognition Panel