



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

April 2016

By email only

Dear

The Press Recognition Panel'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 Standards Organisation (IPSO) does not intend to apply for recognition.

The Charter sits alongside the Crime and Courts Act 2013. One of the Act's purposes was to enact changes to press regulation that were designed to encourage publishers to join approved regulators. The exemplary damages provisions of the Act came into force in November 2015. In October 2015 John Whittingdale, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport announced that he was not convinced the time was right for the introduction of the costs provisions in the Act.

The Charter requires the PRP to report annually 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 are writing to people such as yourself, who we know have an interest in our work. We will also launch a formal public call for information on 18 April 2016, which will run for eight weeks until 12 June 2016.

As part of our information gathering, it would be helpful to know your views on whether the new system for overseeing press regulation in the UK has been a success or failure so far, and your reasoning. Also, given that for publishers, joining an approved regulator is voluntary, and for regulators, applying for Charter recognition is voluntary, we would be keen to know your views on what factors or issues might affect regulators' and publishers' decisions when they consider these choices?

I sincerely hope that you will 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 would hold the meeting in private and then an agreed note would be published following publication of the report.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wolfe', with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

David Wolfe
Chair of the Press Recognition Panel