

Society of Editors

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From the Director

Susie Uppal
Chief Executive
Press Recognition Panel
Mappin House
4 Winsley Street
London
W1W 8HF

3 March 2016

Dear Ms Uppal

Thank you for your email inviting us to see and comment on the application by Impress for recognition under the Royal Charter.

As I feel sure you are aware, the vast majority of our newspaper members are involved in news organisations that are contracted to the Independent Press Standards Organisation so the application is of interest and you may well be hearing from them. IPSO regulates the products of nearly all of the major news publishers in the UK and these will include all but two of the publishers of national newspapers when the Independent ceases print publication.

While the application appears to lack detail about membership and funding I note that names mentioned are hardly those which could be described as 'significant' as per the Charter criteria or were the subject of scrutiny by the Leveson inquiry.

Lord Justice Leveson, as he then was, said his preferred option for regulation was a scheme that would be satisfactory in the eyes of the public, politicians – and newspapers. As no 'significant' publishers are included in the Impress membership application, it seems it would not meet that rather fundamental recommendation.

I note that the criteria for recognition include a reference to people with knowledge and experience of the media. While many members of Impress may well be worthy individuals, the Impress application appears weak in its attention to a key criterion which might provide some confidence that the organisation has detailed and relevant experience of how 'significant' newspapers work.

I am sure the recognition panel will be aware of these factors when it considers the application.

Yours sincerely,



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