

1. In your opinion, has the new system for overseeing press regulation in the UK been a success or failure so far?

The fact that the major publishers are clinging to the same type of self-regulatory system that necessitated the Levison Inquiry in the first place means that so far it has failed. The spurious claim with which they try to justify their position, i.e. to avoid government control of the press, is an obvious misinterpretation of the recommendations and wholly hypocritical when one considers how, on so many issues, sections of the press have distorted the truth in order to manipulate public opinion to satisfy their own agenda, Hillsborough being an obvious example.

Indeed if we really wanted to preserve the freedom of speech for the people of this country we would not allow any news media to be owned and controlled by people who do not share our nationality, are not domiciled here and choose to live in a tax-haven but have reason, by virtue of their business investments in this country, to exert influence over politicians to allow them to operate with impunity.

The PRP should remind Parliament of Levison's recommendation on press regulation and call for a debate on the wider issue of press-ownership.

For publishers, joining an approved regulator is voluntary. For regulators applying for Charter recognition is voluntary. What factors or issues will affect regulators' and publishers' decisions when they consider these choices?

Publishers need to be incentivized to join a recognised regulator it by the proposed system of cost shifting. The low-cost arbitration means that publishers can print stories without fear that any legal action will bankrupt them or their journalist. Secondly if a claimant reject arbitration and chooses to go to court, the publisher is protected from paying court costs.

Similarly ordinary people would be guaranteed access to justice through low cost arbitration.

This measure should have been achieved by the implementation of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 which Parliament has already endorsed and showed its intention to apply it. I urge the PRP to recommend that Parliament commence section 40 as soon as possible and reminds members of the House of the eloquent words of intent at the time of the Milly Dowler hacking revelations. Do we really have to wait for another similar tragedy to happen before we finally regulate our press properly.

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