

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to make the following comments on the absence of effective press regulation despite **the amount of time, money and effort that has been expended. The corporate press** industry has refused to establish a system of independent self-regulation proposed as far back as 2012 if not before.

The Leveson Report says: "if some or all of the industry are not willing to participate in effective independent regulation, my own concluded view is to reject the notion that they should escape regulation altogether. I cannot, and will not, recommend another last chance saloon for the press. With some measure of regret, therefore, I am driven to conclude that the Government should be ready to consider the need for a statutory backstop regulator being established, to ensure, at the least, that the press are subject to regulation that would require the fullest compliance with the criminal and civil law, if not also to ensure consequences equivalent to those that would flow from an independent self-regulatory system."

The government must now implement a statutory backstop regulator as proposed.

In the meantime, regardless of whether IMPRESS is recognised by the PRP, the PRP should strongly recommend to Parliament **that the key 'guaranteed access to justice incentive'** (section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act) should be brought into effect as Parliament had intended.

The credibility of this government depends on its ability to force the press into compliance with its Leveson inquiry conclusions that were accepted the time as the way forward.

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