

Dear Press Recognition Panel,

The Leveson Report is now four years old and it seems that very little has changed - parts of our national press continue to publish distorted, invented and defamatory stories with apparent impunity.

I believe that your panel now has a duty to remind Parliament that Leveson was clear about what should happen if the press industry tried to veto or ignore his recommendations and refuse to comply:

*"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."*

Secondly, 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.

Without this our press will continue to invent and distort with impunity, and at enormous cost to the unfortunate individuals who are caught up by their sloppy or vindictive stories.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Tinson