

Sirs

As someone who has suffered considerable loss and reputational damage as a direct result of Press printing verbatim reports sent to them by malicious parties during a hostile company takeover, I absolutely believe that Press needs strong regulation and accountability. I do not believe, sorry I know, that Press choose not to follow any kind of self regulation, they would rather have a headline and simply do not give a damn about the personal consequences

Why on earth should Press continue to be allowed to print unbalanced, uninvestigated crap that has profound impacts on individuals....at the moment they are effectively enabled to act as trolls in print...

Why are Press somehow apparently exempt, or enabled to be exempt, from acting in accordance with rights, and more importantly restrictions, granted to all individuals under the European Convention of Human Rights?... published lies most certainly do impact on health and reputation

Article 10 - expression[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights](#)

Article 10 provides the right to [freedom of expression](#), subject to certain restrictions that are "in accordance with law" and "necessary in a democratic society". This right includes the freedom to hold opinions, and to receive and impart information and ideas, but allows restrictions for:

- interests of national security
- territorial integrity or public safety
- prevention of disorder or crime
- **protection of health or morals**
- **protection of the reputation or the rights of others**
- preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence
- maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary

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

So far, it has not worked. Whether or not IMPRESS is recognised, many relevant publishers have decided to stay outside the recognised system in order to try to continue the old failed system. Leveson – while offering one last voluntary chance to get their house in order - anticipated that this may happen and said that if it did, Parliament needed to

act. **The PRP should take the opportunity of its report to remind Parliament of Leveson's words on this matter.**

He said:  *"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."* 

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

 Leveson considered this question and concluded that the voluntary version of the system would only have a chance to work if publishers were offered incentives for joining it. As such, he proposed a system of "cost-shifting" and it is this measure which is the main incentive for a publisher to join a recognised regulator - and for a regulator to seek recognition.

By attaining recognition and agreeing to offer low-cost arbitration, publishers are protected in two ways. First, it reduces the effect of 'chilling' so it can publish stories without the subject of the story threatening to bankrupt the journalist/publisher. Secondly, if a claimant rejects the arbitration and chooses to go to court, the publisher is protected from paying courts costs. 

 It would be a win-win situation: ordinary people would be guaranteed access to justice through low-cost arbitration and the publishers would be freed from chilling and potential court costs if a rich individual or company chooses to reject the route of arbitration, instead insisting on going to court. This measure should have been achieved by section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013: a critical part of the Royal Charter system which Leveson recommended in outline terms. Parliament endorsed this measure too and intended it to apply. It is a part of the "recognition system".

But the Government is blocking it.

I urge the PRP to recommend to Parliament and the Government that section 40 is "commenced" as soon as possible, as it is integral to the system of recognition & incentives system.