

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is now five years since the world was shocked by the revelation of the hacking of Millie Dowler's phone. There have been plenty of other instances of unnecessary and offensive intrusion by the press into people's private lives, but this was the real cruncher. Many of us feel very unhappy about press censorship, but if this is the depth to which some parts of the press are prepared to go, for the sake of sales, then nobody is safe, and no decent person can ignore the issue.

The Leveson Report came out of that crisis. In it, Leveson stated that **"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..... 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....."**

"With some measure of regret", many of us ordinary citizens, most of whom do not expect to need this protection, have come to feel that it should be available. If this proves totally impossible, then we should at the very least have some **"guaranteed access access to justice"**, possibly through substantial compensation, sufficient to cause even our bloated news industry to think more carefully.