

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing briefly to respond to the two questions in your document requesting views.

Has the new system been a success or failure?

My understanding is that most of the major media organisations have chosen to stay outside the current system. If this is correct then it appears clear that the new system is currently a failure.

I also know that the Leveson report said, with reluctance, that if the media organisations rejected an effective voluntary arrangement the government should put in place a statutory measure. In light of the above this seems necessary.

I am also aware that there seems to be some question about whether the guaranteed access to justice legislation will be brought into effect. If it is not then this would be a further failure of major significance.

What factors affect decisions?

I don't think I have the expertise to answer this in detail. For regulators I think it is important that they are able to address issues of misuse of power and unwarranted invasion of privacy without curtailing the legitimacy of press investigation and publication of matters of concern, criminality etc. Publishers are very varied but it is clear that some are vast and wealthy organisations that have a huge interest in pursuing profit, power and influence at the expense of any person or organisation that is not aligned to their interests.

Information about me.

I am not an employee of any organisation and write as an individual member of the public. My interest in this matter arose as a result of the many concerns that led to the Leveson work and I have maintained an interest in developments since then.