

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to respond to the public consultation on the way forward for press regulation.

So far the new system for overseeing press regulation has not worked. Most publishers have decided to stay outside of the recognised system and continue to apply the old, failed system. Lord Leveson anticipated that this might happen and said that if it did, then Parliament would need to act. The PRP needs to remind Parliament of what Lord Leveson said:

*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."*

In order to provide the necessary encouragement for voluntary sign-up by publishers and by regulators, Lord Leveson said that this would only work if there were incentives and he proposed a system of 'cost-shifting'. In my opinion, this is an important aspect. I would encourage the PRP to recommend that section 40 is commenced as soon as possible