

To the Press Recognition Panel,

As a member of the public I am extremely angry at the way the press (especially the gutter press - the lower end of the tabloid market) have abused their freedom in the past. The harrassment of ordinary individuals who the feral press knew did not have the financial means to get legal redress, was a disgrace.

Peoples' private lives opened up to malign scrutiny, lies printed, demeaning photos published and constant hounding of individuals day and night. This is not acceptable behaviour in a civilised society and I want to see the instigators of this vile behaviour seriously punished by the imposition of swinging fines on the newspapers responsible.

With freedom (to publish) comes responsibility. We are not getting that. Time for legislation with teeth.

Meantime I would like the suggestions below implemented.

1. Parliament should be reminded by the PRP what the Leveson Report said should happen if the industry tried to veto his recommendations and refused to comply. The Leveson Report says: "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. 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.