

Dear Panel,

The circumstances that led to the Leveson were long formed and serious. The task he was given, as a result of the history of abuse by the press, was huge. The responsibilities his report has placed on the managers of our society, and thereby on you, are heavy, vital, serious and important. Leveson 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."*

The situation we now have is unsatisfactory. It is imperative 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. I urge the panel to press for this.

Yours etc.

Chris Jackson