

Sir / Madam

It was one of the main points of the Leveson enquiry that "***if some or all of the (newspaper) 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 view of the fact that several newspapers refuse to join a system of regulation that it is incumbent of the government to regulate.

This must happen if we are to ensure previous histories are not repeated.

Dr David Westwood