

Dear Panel,

I followed the Leveson enquiry and was disturbed by the press behaviour that was revealed.

Later, when parliament passed the law in 2013 that would guarantee access to justice for victims of libel and press intrusion., I was relieved.

Now I am again disturbed to read that the Government is now also blocking the coming into effect of that main incentive.

In the coming Autumn, when you (the Press Recognition Panel and reminding your task is to assess whether self-regulators meet Leveson's criteria) make your report to Parliament on the state of the press regulatory system, I strongly urge that, as the Leveson Report recommends:

“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.”

Furthermore, I would hope and urge you, the PRP, to 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.

Yours sincerely,
Graham D Dickerson