

To the Press Recognition Panel

Parliament has to date virtually ignored the recommendations in the lengthy and costly Leveson Report: the non-implementation of the report has served only to allow time to pass, apparently in the hope that public opinion will have lost interest in seeing a genuine system of penalties for transgression.

AND THESE PENALTIES SHOULD BE IMPOSED BY A BODY OTHER THAN, AS AT PRESENT, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS. SOME OF THESE STALWARTS OF PROPRIETY BEING GUILTY OF THE ACTIONS WHICH BROUGHT LEVESON INTO BEING.

It is a disgraceful state of affairs which leaves the proven guilty to act as their own judge and jury.

- 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."

- 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.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours faithfully,

J E Dougall