

Dear sirs,

The Hacked Off campaign have recently emailed me to point out that there is a review of press regulation due this autumn and that the public's view is sought. Here is my view for what it is worth.

The corporate press has not accepted regulation. They have created a figleaf wholly under their own control with no teeth. The correct consequence of the review is independent regulation, governed by parliament. In fact, this was obvious when Leveson reported initially and I have no idea how anyone responsible for this state of affairs managed to live with another four years of the status quo.

The current situation is unacceptable: the press publish fiction and take whatever steps they please in order to breach privacy. Certainly there is an obvious need to bring lots of things out into the light but I would suggest that the press haven't managed that either. Channel 4 is investigating improper electoral spending - which of the papers is doing anything similar?

A regulator along the lines of the Information Commissioner and with a connection to the Crown Prosecution Service to start court cases would help greatly.

People will argue that a free and vigorous press is a requirement of democracy - I would agree entirely and I hope we get one. What we currently have is published by global corporations, motivated solely by money, with no commitment to the countries in which they operate and with no concern for truth or accuracy or morals.

Yours faithfully,

John Beattie