

Dear Sir/Madam,

Parliament needs to be reminded by the PRP of what the Leveson Report said should happen, if the industry tried to veto his recommendations and refused to comply. This would seem to be the de facto state of affairs.

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 would like to remind you that a free and responsible press is a sine qua non of the democratic process. The absence has contributed to the public's poor view of politics and politicians to-day. Disregard of Leveson will only help to continue this dangerous trend. Action is required.

Yours sincerely,

John Long