

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.***"

It is clear that those within the print industry have a view of their role in life which is different from the masses upon whom they report. After so much time has been spent on examining the role of the publishing industry we are at a crucial moment when the power of the press can be seen to be crushing the will of the people.

Politicians wring their hands at the low level of support they enjoy amongst the electorate for so many of their failed promises. With yet another swivelling twist and turn the publishing industry seeks to avoid being held to account. Please don't let this happen once again for the sake of pleasing a minority against the wishes of the majority.

Self regulation never seems to work whilst profits have to be made and considered.

John Matthews