

Dear Sir,

I attended an official consultation meeting in Manchester some time ago, in which we were consulted on our opinions concerning the Leveson Report and what we thought of the regulatory bodies that were being initiated.

The overall consensus was a resounding feeling that the Press would try every means possible to stop any meaningful body being established. The majority present were quite cynical over IPSO especially since the PCC has been shown to be useless in the past and there is no evidence that IPSO will be any different.

It is fairly clear to me the Press will resist to the end any regulation and I therefore request you follow the recommendations of Leveson if it came to this point:

"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."

The Press have pushed us to this stage and to me there is no other path to follow and I urge you to apply the rest of Leveson's conclusions.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Bodemeaid