

Dear Press Recognition Panel

For too long now the vast majority of the British press have conducted themselves with scant regard for peoples dignity and right to a life free of libel and excessive press intrusion. In many documented cases the press have engaged in immoral and at times illegal activities to promote the interests of the media concerned at the expense of the British public. The Leveson Enquiry was an important step towards rectifying these grave injustices but four years on we have not seen the main findings of his report carried through or the ratification by this government of the 2013 law passed by Parliament. The British people deserve more respect from their elected representatives. It is clear that the big newspapers have rejected the proposed system of independent self-regulation, as foreseen by Leveson.

It is time that the PRP reports with absolute clarity on the current situation and bring all necessary pressure to bear on this government to ensure the 2013 law is ratified and an independent regulator of the press is established.

1) 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.***"

2) 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 urge you not to miss this opportunity and act now to ensure proper protection for the public and an independently regulated press.

Sincerely,

Peter Wormald