

1. When on earth is someone going to get a grip of our gutter press which are an absolute disgrace to the country. The Leveson Report was a balanced judgment to protect freedom of speech in the press but to ensure that blatant untruths needed to be discouraged and corrected. It seems to me the Press Barons think they can carry on with business as usual regulating themselves as Parliament are afraid of them.
2. I was always taught that no one in the land is above the law no matter how powerful they are and after Leveson I thought something would change. Now you have the opportunity to remind the Press Barons of this and implement the Leveson report in full. You would be doing the country a great service by recommending the introduction of a statutory backstop regulator capable of imposing unlimited fines on those newspapers found guilty of unproven accusations which in the past have ruined people's lives.
3. 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."***
4. 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.

Yours truly,

Richard Whitehouse