

I understand that you are consulting to understand public views on the current state of press regulation and would like to offer my own:

Self-regulation as currently implemented falls far short of the system that Levenson recommended. IPSO is not recognised under the Royal Charter. Impress has few supporters amongst the national newspapers. The newspapers have been given several years to come up with effective self-regulation and have failed to do so. The Levenson Report urged Government to be ready to consider the need for a statutory backstop regulator, and I believe the time to introduce such a regulator has come.

At the same point, the main incentive planned to encourage effective regulation, section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act, has been blocked by Government, and hence victims of press abuse are denied justice. This measure should be implemented as Parliament intended.

Yours sincerely

William Lees