



Department for Culture Media & Sport

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Dr David Wolfe QC
Chair of Press Recognition Panel

CMS 293242/asg
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Dear Dr Wolfe

I am writing regarding the consultation we are launching on two issues related to the Leveson Inquiry: the commencement of section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013, which relates to costs provisions for recognised press self-regulators, and the continuation of Part 2 of the Inquiry. The consultation was launched today and will run for 10 weeks until 10 January 2017. The consultation can be found here

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-leveson-inquiry-and-its-implementation

As you and your board will be aware, it is now five years since the Leveson Inquiry was established and four years since its Report on Part 1 was published. Much has changed in that time: the completion of three detailed police investigations, extensive reforms to policing practices and arguably the most significant changes to press self-regulation in decades, including of course the Royal Charter that established the Press Recognition Panel.

The Government remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that the inexcusable practices that led to the Leveson Inquiry being established should never happen again. As part of this, it is important that the public know that should they have a complaint about the press their concerns will be handled competently, fairly and swiftly. The Government is also fully supportive of a system of voluntary self-regulation by the press that is free from Government interference and which enables all sectors of the industry to thrive.

On this basis, we consider that a consultation is needed to examine two issues. First, to look at section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 and consider the different options as to its commencement. I have now met with a wide range of interested parties, including victims of press abuse and members of the press with differing views on this legislation. I am aware that, in your annual report on the recognition system laid before Parliament last month, you made clear your views that section 40 should be implemented and it is helpful to have this view set out. However, we consider it appropriate to consult widely to gather clear evidence about the likely impact of the legislation before taking a decision on next steps.



Second, we are seeking views as to whether proceeding with Part 2 of the Inquiry is still proportionate and in the public interest. Submissions received will inform our position although I realise this is likely to be of less relevance to the Press Recognition Panel than the consultation on s.40.

Government has not yet taken any decisions on s.40 or Part 2 of the Leveson Inquiry, and this consultation seeks views on all options. I would be happy to discuss this further with you if helpful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hans ew'.A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'K'.

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport