



Press Recognition Panel
Mappin House
4 Winsley Street
London W1W 8HF

Tony Gallagher
Editor-in-Chief
The Sun

Sent by email only

14 February 2017

Dear Mr Gallagher

I am writing to you having heard your interview on Radio 4's Today Programme on 8 February 2017. During the interview, you were asked: "What's your beef with IMPRESS?"

In response, you answered: "IMPRESS is a state-sponsored regulator. It would allow MPs to have some control over us."

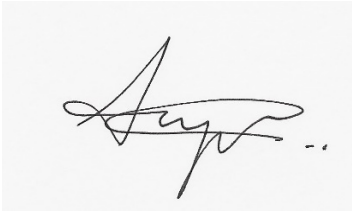
The recognition system was intended to remove political interference from press regulation. On 25 October 2016, the Board of the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) thoroughly assessed IMPRESS's application for recognition and recognised IMPRESS as an approved regulator. This means that IMPRESS is independent of government, politicians or any other such interest.

In addition, by virtue of our Royal Charter, the PRP has a unique and unprecedented independence from government and politicians. Indeed, in a recent meeting, Karen Bradley MP, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, confirmed to our Chair, David Wolfe, that neither she nor any other politicians or part of government or the state had any ability to steer the PRP. (A note of the meeting has been published on our website at <http://pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk/stakeholder-meetings>.)

The PRP is keen to understand the views of everyone who is affected by our role and work, so it would be helpful if you could please set out your concerns about political interference more fully. Alternatively, if you would prefer, I can arrange for you to meet with David Wolfe to discuss matters.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Susie Uppal'.

Susie Uppal
Chief Executive
Press Recognition Panel