

As a person with a long standing interest in the press - I have taught Media Studies for several years - I write to express my concerns about the way that the Royal Charter is being dismissed by the majority of the current press and the inevitable consequence of this, if they are allowed to pursue this course, which will be that our press will continue to be irresponsible and self serving.

Whilst it is important that we maintain a free press we must also ensure that it is a "responsible" press and this in many cases is singularly lacking, as they publish intrusive stories, often containing at best "half truths, and stories which are in the interests of themselves and their owners whilst at the same time ignoring stories which do not suit their political and economic agendas.

It is particularly important therefore that the independence of any press regulator is absolutely guaranteed, and on this the current proposals from the press to - effectively - continue the old PCC under another name are not acceptable.

The most vociferous campaign group in this area has been "Hacked Off", which with it's use of victims of press harassment etc. has put forward a very damning case against the current press. I have read their proposals for the way in which any new press regulation body should be constituted and would ask that the consultation body implements these without any compromise or concession to those who wish to try and still protect their own interests to the detriment of the general public!

Christopher Penney