

Dear Press Recognition Panel,

I am writing firstly to say that I back Hacked Off's submission, prepared with the input of victims of press abuse. I hope you will take note of this.

A press regulator needs to be wholly independent, and it should have real power to punish and kick out reporters that cannot keep to a high ethical code.

Equally important is to be able to hold the publishers like Murdoch to account for the conduct of its employees. Any new body needs to have to power to punish them hard financially when needed, just like the banks have faced fines over PPI scandals. Only when the fines are prohibitive will the press barons clean up their act.

As a member of the public this whole issue of hacking and holding the press to account, so far has been a white wash.

The Leveson report should have been implemented in full period. But the slippery Tory coalition failed in their duty to protect the public from these scandalous illegal methods used by so-called reporters.

Therefore I am very dubious of any half baked fudge that is being cooked up. Honesty, decency, integrity, won't mean a thing to the people who write our news unless you make them.

Sincerely

Kevin Ashton