



Notes of the PRP Consultation Event held on 10 June 2015 at Queen's University Belfast

Introduction

Between 8 June and 31 July 2015 the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) held a public consultation on how we would receive and determine applications for recognition from independent press self-regulators. As part of the consultation we held eight public events across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The events were an opportunity for the public to have their say on the proposed recognition process and to find out more about the PRP.

One person representing local community groups attended this session in Belfast with David Wolfe QC, Chair of the PRP. The discussion below summarises the discussion which has been edited and to protect the identity of the individual.

Discussion

It was noted that the press in Northern Ireland were generally positive about local communities, and inaccuracies were uncommon.

The view was expressed though that when accuracy issues did arise people were generally unwilling to complain to the press and it tended to be the Equality Commission who took up such cases.

The difficulty of engaging the press in minority community issues was discussed; and the importance to have oversight of the press and to keep checks and balances on things – the PRP's work would be likely to play a key role in ensuring standards were upheld.