

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS

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David Wolfe QC
Chair
The Press Recognition Panel
Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street
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Dear David

I am writing to draw your attention to the news coverage last week of the declaration by the deputy leader of the Labour Party, Tom Watson, that he had received of donation of £200,000 from Mr Max Mosley, to fund his office at the Commons. I enclose a copy of the Daily Mail's report – the story was also covered elsewhere, including The Times and The Guardian.

As you know from our responses to your Calls for Information on the IMPRESS recognition application, one of our central concerns is IMPRESS's lack of independence, given that it relies almost entirely on one individual, Mr Mosley, for its funding.

We also expressed concern about the links between various key individuals involved in IMPRESS and the Labour Party.

We now have a situation where the individual who is bank-rolling IMRESS is also bank-rolling the deputy leader of the Labour Party who, in turn, has campaigned very actively against parts of the press, as well as promoting bizarre and unfounded criminal allegations against Lord Bramall and Lord Brittan. Tom Watson's book Dial M for Murdoch was written in collaboration with journalist Martin Hickman, now a member of IMPRESS's board.

It is of course for you and your Panel to decide, but we cannot possibly see how this tightly-knit clique of individuals with a political agenda, funded by a single multi-millionaire, can possibly qualify as an independent regulator under the terms of the Royal Charter, let alone fulfil the vision set out by Lord Justice Leveson.

Yours sincerely



Peter Wright
Editor Emeritus, Associated Newspapers

Weather

Go to: dailymail.co.uk/weather for UK and world 5 day forecast

City	Temp (°F)	Temp (°C)
Aberdeen	16 (61°F)	10
Glasgow	20 (68°F)	10
Newcastle	19 (66°F)	10
Belfast	16 (61°F)	10
Manchester	17 (63°F)	10
Birmingham	18 (64°F)	10
London	20 (68°F)	10
Plymouth	14 (57°F)	10
Cardiff	18 (64°F)	10
Edinburgh	18 (64°F)	10
London	21 (70°F)	10

Summary: Cloud building

UK TODAY: There will be plenty of sunshine around initially but cloud will build this morning leading to quite a cloudy afternoon. Most places should stay dry. Gentle to moderate northwest winds. Max 21c.

Today's weather

City	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
London	15c	18c	20c	20c	17c
Plymouth	15c	17c	18c	18c	14c
Cardiff	14c	16c	18c	17c	15c
B'ham	14c	17c	18c	18c	15c
M'chester	14c	17c	18c	18c	16c
Newcastle	13c	16c	16c	15c	13c
Glasgow	14c	17c	18c	18c	15c
Aberdeen	13c	14c	15c	15c	13c
Belfast	13c	16c	17c	16c	15c

5 day forecast

City	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
London	22c	23c	23c	24c	23c
Plymouth	18c	19c	19c	19c	19c
Cardiff	18c	19c	20c	20c	20c
B'ham	21c	21c	21c	22c	22c
M'chester	20c	18c	18c	20c	19c
Newcastle	19c	17c	18c	18c	18c
Glasgow	18c	16c	16c	17c	18c
Aberdeen	19c	16c	16c	16c	17c
Belfast	20c	16c	17c	18c	18c

Yesterday

City	24 hours (m)	Sun (m)	Rain (m)	Temp (m)
Aberdeen	6.2	0.02	10	17
Aberporth	8.7	0.01	12	15
Belfast	5.5	0.24	10	16
Birmingham	7.3	0.4	8	18
Bournemouth	6.9	0.02	10	19
Bristol	2.5	0.04	9	18
Cardiff	8.1	0.01	9	18
Durham	6.3	0.02	10	18

Moon and Sun

MOON rises: 3.58pm, sets: 12.0am
Sun rises: London 5.00am, sets: 9.12pm
 Manchester rises: 4.58am, sets: 9.33pm
 HIGH TIDE: London Bridge: 10.23pm
 Liverpool: 8.0pm

Europe forecast

City	today	tomorrow	temp
Amsterdam	fair	20	64
Brussels	fair	20	68
Frankfurt	sun	20	68

Around the world yesterday

City	weather	temp
Ahleria	fair	29.84
Amsterdam	sun	17.63
Alaska	sun	32.90
Auckland	cloudy	15.59
Bahamas	sun	44.18
Barcelona	fair	20.78
Batavia	sun	43.83
Belgrade	sun	33.91
Berlin	showers	18.64
Birmingham	cloudy	19.06
Brisbane	fair	20.68
Brussels	showers	15.59
Bucharest	sun	28.82
Chennai	sun	31.68
Chicago	sun	20.68
Cairo	sun	33.95
Canberra	cloudy	3.41
Cape Town	fair	21.73
Cardiff	showers	15.61
Casablanca	sun	24.78
Corfu	sun	31.83
Dubai	sun	38.00
Dublin	showers	15.61
Dubrovnik	sun	30.66
Edinburgh	fair	16.61
Fero	sun	24.68

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£5000	44 46 49 68 73 74
£1000	£1000
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£100	£100
05 10 40 58 64 89	15 30 51 58 77 80
06 26 37 42 57 73	10 17 24 54 58 65
£50	£50
47 58 69 72 76 82	04 11 22 27 55 84
12 14 26 39 67 72	09 33 47 58 70 71
£10	£10
04 13 23 40 66 83	05 13 16 31 78 90
50 55 61 76 79 85	19 33 40 51 76 81

FOR YOUR UNIQUE NUMBER, SEE BACK PAGE

By Christian Gysin and Sam Greenhill

DOUBTS about the independence of the would-be Press regulator propped up by Max Mosley's millions grew last night after it was revealed that he has given £200,000 to Labour MP Tom Watson.

Labour's deputy leader is a founding member of the anti-Press pressure group Hacked Off's advisory committee.

Mr Mosley, the son of the wartime fascist leader Oswald Mosley, is almost single-handedly bankrolling Impress, the would-be regulator.

It was set up to offer 'independent' regulation of the Press under the Government's state-backed scheme. But critics question whether Impress can be independent, given its reliance on Mr Mosley's millions.

It was revealed yesterday that the former motor racing tycoon had handed £200,000 to Mr Watson in addition to £40,000 he gave the MP last year.

Bob Satchwell, executive director of the Society of Editors, said: "Tom Watson has been one of the fiercest critics of newspapers, so the idea that his benefactor Max Mosley's Impress can be considered independent is very questionable."

No national or regional newspaper has yet signed up to Impress, which has admitted it will rely on £3.8million in donations over four years from the family of Mr Mosley.

The majority - including the Daily Mail - are overseen by the Independent Press Standards Organisation, which can impose £1million fines for serious and systemic wrongdoing.

Mr Satchwell said: "Critics of the Press, including Max Mosley, are quick to suggest Ipsos is not independent, but this is further evidence that Impress is the one that clearly lacks

New doubts over 'Press watchdog' funded by Mosley

Tycoon's £200k for Labour's Watson



Benefactor: Max Mosley



Big donation: Tom Watson

independence." Mr Watson declared the donation in the latest edition of the House of Commons Register of Members' Financial Interests.

He said the money was paid via the Labour Party 'to support my office as deputy leader and shadow Cabinet Office minister'. Four years ago the MP for West Bromwich East co-authored the book *Dial M For Murdoch* about the phone-hacking scandal.

Mr Mosley has been a key fig-

ure in a celebrity campaign for tougher rules for the Press after he sued the News of the World for printing photos of him taking part in a sadomasochistic orgy with prostitutes dressed in military uniform.

Impress is still waiting to hear if it will be recognised by the Press Regulation Panel set up under the controversial Royal Charter. The charter was agreed between the three main political parties and Hacked Off after the Leveson Inquiry

recommended 'voluntary, independent self-regulation'.

Ipsos has said that it will not seek official recognition under the Charter.

Last night Mr Mosley said: "The £200,000 was donated on 8 June to support the work of Tom Watson's office. Tom is a very admirable politician, a fearless campaigner against injustice and a good man. I have the greatest respect for his commitment to public service. I agree with his aims and am delighted to be able to help."

Walter Merricks, chairman of Impress, said: "We are not and never will be beholden to anyone and we can never be in a position where our funding could be removed if we offended a funder."

While Mr Mosley's family is guaranteeing funding for four years, Mr Merricks added: "Other funders may contribute in future. This grant is enough to cover Impress's core costs for this period whilst we develop our income from regulatory fees."

Juncker's secret Amazon tax meetings

EUROPEAN Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker hosted secret meetings with Amazon executives involved in the firm's controversial tax avoidance strategy when he was prime minister of Luxembourg.

He met them as his country was offering deals to multinational firms allowing them to pay little or no tax.

US magazine Newsweek revealed docu-

ments about the gatherings which came from a court case in Seattle between Amazon and the American tax authorities. They show Mr Juncker, now president of the Commission, met four senior Amazon tax managers over four days in 2013.

He held office from 1995-2013 in Luxem-

bourg, where Amazon has its European headquarters, and has come under intense scrutiny for facilitating tax avoidance on a global scale.

A spokesman said it was 'entirely normal' for Mr Juncker to have met Amazon bosses. But Sven Glegold, a German MEP, said: "It is beyond belief that tax questions weren't discussed."