

Q1: In your opinion, has the new system for overseeing press regulation in the UK been a success or failure so far? Please explain your reasons.

It does not inspire confidence that it is independent & impartial, largely because it does not follow the recommendations put forward by Lord Leveson. Leveson's statement on the matter was, "if some or all of the industry are not willing to participate in effective independent regulation, my own concluded view is to reject the notion that they should escape regulation altogether.

I cannot, and will not, recommend another last chance saloon for the press. With some measure of regret, therefore, I am driven to conclude that the Government should be ready to consider the need for a statutory backstop regulator being established, to ensure, at the least, that the press are subject to regulation that would require the fullest compliance with the criminal and civil law, if not also to ensure consequences equivalent to those that would flow from an independent self-regulatory system."