

Press Recognition Panel

I have followed with great interest and rising horror the follow up from Leveson. The big press barons appear to be in total control of the situation with the rehabilitation of Rebecca Brooks into the Murdoch empire and the social life of the leading politicians in the country. They have no shame and are again feted by our Prime Minister. In the light of this situation Parliament should definitely be reminded by the PRP what the Leveson Report said should happen if the industry tried to veto his recommendations and refused to comply.

The Leveson Report says: "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."

In the meantime, regardless of whether IMPRESS is recognised by the PRP, the PRP should strongly recommend to Parliament that the key 'guaranteed access to justice incentive' (section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act) should be brought into effect as Parliament had intended.

I write this email with very little hope of any democratic process or regulation being brought about as I see nobody in a position or with the political will to carry it out. The possibilities which the press have to threaten and bully citizens has reached an all time high with very little chance of justice. The level of corruption between press, politicians, criminals and police is evident following on from Hillsborough disaster. One can only hope in our ordinary life that "it doesn't happen to me"!