

I would like to make the following points:

1. No one is saying that a minister of the government should become an editor.
2. In IPSO the press is re-appointing self-regulation in all its ineffectiveness. With the cynical reappointment of the friend of the PM, Rebekah Brooks, despite her deliberate destruction of evidence, and Murdoch Jr, it is business as usual for the oligopoly of the owners of print-media, enabling them to pressurize and tempt politicians and police from the PM downwards? Do MPs not want to be freed from this?
3. There is no chartered body to regulate the press, yet there is a charter for each university, where the issue of academic freedom is probably more important and not focused on selling salacious stories with which to corrupt the minds of the population, especially in regard to the vital institutions of the institution of the UK, including the Houses of Parliament.
4. The recent judgment on an injunction shows up the limitations of the laws of slander and libel, to which only the rich in practice have access. Anyone less cannot less than a former Chief of Defence Forces cannot hope to clear a media-besmirched name, and even he has not completely. The police also gratuitously informed the press about Cliff Richard and clouds still hang over everything for which he has stood for 40-59 years. This is an inversion of the values of UK society, which is corroded.
5. Whatever ministers have said, Leveson II should be implemented without delay. The media has too much power in too few hands over individuals in the way, and over the public at large, basting the standards of public life with false accusation and hypocrisy.

Let the media spend its energy on thoroughly and ethically researching investigative journalism in the public interest before it goes to publication.

*Yours as ever,*

*Dr Ben Knighton FRAI*