

Dear Sirs,

With respect to your forthcoming report to Parliament on the state of the press regulatory system (this coming Autumn), it is clear that little, if any publicly visible, substantial progress has been made with regard to Part 2 of Lord Justice Leveson's report on Press Regulation.

Not only have the national daily newspapers rejected the setting-up of a fully-independent regulator, but many some have set up their own "self-regulator", IMPRESS - that is neither independent nor impartial. However, it seems that most of the significant newspaper publishers remain disengaged from any regulator.

Surely, it is an inescapable conclusion that the big newspapers have rejected any form of independent, impartial regulation and are disdainful of even "self-regulating".

In your forthcoming report, please will you emphasise:

1. Parliament should be reminded 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."

and:

2. In the meantime, regardless of whether IMPRESS is recognised by yourselves (the PRP), you 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, without any modification or further delay.

Yours,

D. Nelson-Wills