

Sirs,

The current EU referendum campaign has highlighted a number of issues that Leveson warned about in his report:

1. The Mail, Express and Telegraph have run the most appalling campaign of half truths and misdirection and IPSO has totally failed to respond to complainants about the conduct of these papers and the baleful influence their reporting is exerting on voters who believe the bilge they are printing.
2. IPSO has taken a cavalier attitude towards privacy issues referred to it. An independent complaints commission would provide a more reassuring those who consider their privacy has been abused.

Leveson exactly saw these situations arising which was why he took the line of an independent regulatory body:

***"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....."***

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.

Yours sincerely

David Kennett