

I write in response to your consultation to urge the Press Recognition Panel to take the strongest possible line in accordance with the recommendation from Lord Leveson that:

"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."

Accordingly, Parliament should bring into effect the 'guaranteed access to justice incentive' (section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act).

The cynical disregard of public, Parliamentary and government opinion by the majority of the press cannot be allowed to continue. Their protests about infringement of a free press are phony, their conduct remains deplorable even during this period of added scrutiny, and IPSO displays all the weakness of its predecessors.

David Pollock