

Much if the press has failed to accept an effective system of independent regulation. Being unwilling to accept the Leveson report's recommendations, their alternative arrangements for self-regulation have proved inadequate.

Anticipating this possibility, Lord Leveson report declared: ***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.***

Regardless of the PRP's recognition or otherwise of IMPRESS, it should strongly recommend to Parliament that Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act should be implemented, ensuring 'guaranteed access to justice incentive'. It is disturbing to discover this provision is lying fallow.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Birchall, PhD