Dear Sirs

I do wish to strongly encourage the relevant authorities to fully implement the recommendations of the Leveson enquiry. A great amount of work went into this enquiry after members of the Press broke the law and invaded people's privacy just to provide juicy headlines when there was no particular injustice suspected, whose exposure might be considered necessary in the public interest. I believe that the Press has a valuable role in exposing powerful people who are damaging our society but that it should have no role in exposing people's private lives unnecessarily.

I believe that the full weight of the law should be applied to members of the Press who break the law unless they can prove that they have no other way to expose an injustice which needs to be exposed in the public interest. It appears that there is some reluctance for the police to act against members of the Press and so it seems to be necessary for some legislation to be enacted to make it clear that the Press are not above the law, although they may have a valid defence if it is proved that they clearly acted in the public's interest. The police need to have a duty to investigate all crimes, including those conducted by members of the Press.

A standard response template below and I agree with the opinions expressed.

1.In your opinion, has the new system for overseeing press regulation in the UK been a success or failure so far? Please explain your reasons.

So far, it has not worked. Whether or not IMPRESS is recognised, many relevant publishers have decided to stay outside the recognised system in order to try to continue the old failed system. Leveson — while offering one last voluntary chance to get their house in order - anticipated that this may happen and said that if it did, Parliament needed to act. The PRP should take the opportunity of its report to remind Parliament of Leveson's words on this matter.

He said:

"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."

2. For publishers, joining an approved regulator is voluntary. For regulators, applying for Charter recognition is voluntary. In your opinion, what factors or issues will affect regulators' and publishers' decisions when they consider these choices?

Leveson considered this question and concluded that the voluntary version of the system would only have a chance to work if publishers were offered incentives for joining it. As such, he proposed a

system of "cost-shifting" and it is this measure which is the main incentive for a publisher to join a recognised regulator - and for a regulator to seek recognition.

By attaining recognition and agreeing to offer low-cost arbitration, publishers are protected in two ways. First, it reduces the effect of 'chilling' so it can publish stories without the subject of the story threatening to bankrupt the journalist/publisher. Secondly, if a claimant rejects the arbitration and chooses to go to court, the publisher is protected from paying courts costs.

It would be a win-win situation: ordinary people would be guaranteed access to justice through low-cost arbitration and the publishers would be freed from chilling and potential court costs if a rich individual or company chooses to reject the route of arbitration, instead insisting on going to court. This measure should have been achieved by section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013: a critical part of the Royal Charter system which Leveson recommended in outline terms. Parliament endorsed this measure too and intended it to apply. It is a part of the "recognition system".

But the Government is blocking it.

I urge the PRP to recommend to Parliament and the Government that section 40 is "commenced" as soon as possible, as it is integral to the system of recognition & incentives system.

Yours faithfully

Eric Rossiter