

Dear Sirs & Ladies,

I am pleased that your Press Recognition Panel (PRP) will be reporting to Parliament on the state of the press regulatory system later this year.

However, I am extremely concerned that the press is absolutely refusing to establish a system of independent self-regulation that meets Lord Leveson's criteria.

Even worse, the Government is now also blocking the law passed by Parliament in 2013 that guarantees access to justice for victims of libel and press intrusion. This is scandalous.

Please remind Parliament ***in the strongest terms*** what Leveson 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."

In the meantime, regardless of whether IMPRESS is recognised by the PRP, it 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.

I await your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Jones