

Dear Sir

I wish to offer the following thoughts to the request for contributions to the Press Recognition Panel consultation:

1. I strongly believe that Parliament should be reminded by the Press Recognition Panel of the recommendations contained in the Leveson Report that described what should happen if the industry tried to veto the Report's recommendations and refused to comply with them. The Leveson Report stated 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./

2. In the meantime, regardless of whether IMPRESS is recognised by the Press Recognition Panel, the Panel 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.

3. I resent, strongly, the continued attempts by large sections of the press to ignore the law of the land, to seek to continue pursuit of their own selfish ambitions and their disregard of both the well being of the nation and the wishes of very large numbers of their customers. They should be shamed. They should be ashamed of themselves.

Yours sincerely

J C Gilbert