

I think that the Press Recognition Panel should remind Parliament of what the Leveson Report recommended if the industry tried to veto his recommendations and refused to comply.

Lord Leveson's Report said 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." It seems to me that that is the minimum that the PRP should remind Parliament of, and it should be done quite forcefully.

Regardless of whether IMPRESS is recognised by the Press Recognition Panel, the PRP should strongly recommend to Parliament that the section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act (the 'guaranteed access to justice incentive') should immediately be brought into effect, as Parliament had intended.

Regards

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