

Dear Press Regulation Panel members,

As a supporter of the Hacked off campaign, I have kept abreast with the government and press response to the Leveson enquiry recommendations, and have generally been dismayed at the failure to introduce measures which hold the press to account.

My support for the campaign stems from humanist principles, and support for the human rights act and I also fully support the right to free speech. I am convinced these principles are compatible and resent the media's attempts to claim that protecting an individual's right to privacy stifles freedom of speech. I endorse the points that the Hacked off campaign outlines below, and include my own statement here to make clear that I am not following an 'automated' campaign and genuinely wish to see parliament using leverage to improve press regulation in line with the Leveson recommendations.

1. Parliament should be reminded by the PRP what the Leveson Report 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."
2. In the meantime, regardless of whether IMPRESS is recognised by the PRP, the PRP 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.

Thank you for considering my views on this important issue

Best wishes

Dr. Kirstie Coxon