

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in anticipation of the PRP's reporting to Parliament on the state of the press regulatory system in the autumn.

I am a journalist saddened by the state of the industry in which I work. Indeed only this week I complained to IPSO about how the Daily Express continues, seemingly with impunity, to disguise as journalism its various politically and financially motivated vendettas. And the front page of The Sun today, accusing the BBC of anti-white racism, is yet another low for the British press.

This has to stop. We regulate broadcast media in this country in the interests of truth, fairness and civilised debate. So why do we tolerate an unscrupulous, irresponsible and, frankly, dangerous press?

It is my belief that the unacceptable behaviour of the British press can only be resolved through full implementation of Lord Leveson's recommendations. I therefore urge you to:

1. Remind Parliament 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. Strongly recommend to Parliament that the key 'guaranteed access to justice incentive' (section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act) be brought into effect as Parliament had intended.

With best wishes

**Lee Graham**