

I am emailing you in response to the public consultation on the press regulatory system.

It is quite clear that the press have no intentions of regulating themselves in any useful way. They appear to believe that the term "freedom of the press" gives them freedom to print whatever they think will sell their papers, regardless of truth, decency, or that over-used term "public interest" They have no concern for the lives of individuals - celebrity or otherwise - whose reputations they carelessly destroy, without a shred of evidence. And we have all seen their pathetic excuses for apologies; two lines on page 7 to recant on a screaming front page headline.

It won't do.

It is the job of the Press Recognition Panel to remind Parliament of what the Leveson Report said should happen if the industry tried to veto his recommendations and refused to comply;

"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."

Whether or not IMPRESS is recognised by the Press Recognition Panel, you should be strongly recommending to Parliament that the "guaranteed access to justice incentive" (section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act) should be brought into effect as Parliament intended.

The Press would like us all to forget the Leveson Inquiry ever happened. It is your job to ensure that Parliament does NOT forget.

Yours faithfully,

Lesley Coumans