

Please find my responses below.

1. In your opinion, has the new system for overseeing press regulation in the UK been a success or failure so far? Please explain your reasons.

Lord Justice Leveson effectively gave the press industry notice that there could be no more second chances. He did this whilst being well aware that the likelihood of non-compliance with the new system remained significant. There can be no ambiguity in his recognition of this fact, and no new interpretation of his intention should be attempted: "if some or all of the industry are not willing to participate in effective independent regulation, . . . 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." That point has now been reached.

2. For publishers, joining an approved regulator is voluntary. For regulators, applying for Charter recognition is voluntary. In your opinion, what factors or issues will affect regulators' and publishers' decisions when they consider these choices?

The broad protections offered by the proposed system are dependent upon the commencement of a critical part of the Royal Charter system - section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013, which has already been endorsed by Parliament. The PRP must recommend to Parliament and the Government that section 40 is "commenced" as soon as possible, because it is integral to the system of recognition & incentives.

Yours faithfully,

Lesley Whitworth