

Dear sir/madam, I am writing to you, the Press Recognition Panel to ask you to make sure that the creation of an independent regulatory body (IRB) goes ahead to ensure that the previous excesses of the press are kept under control by fair, enforceable rules *and laws*.

**Why?** The press are, in my opinion, not fit to self-regulate as has been shown by numerous activities including hacking, political/government bias and abuse of citizens. As you are aware they have bullied, hacked and generally abused both people with the means to protect themselves and much more aggressively, people who do not have the means to protect themselves. For example, whistle-blowers, victims of crime and other unfortunate citizens. A disgrace, in my opinion, even for an industry that appears to have lost all sense of journalistic responsibility. Never before has there been such a need for a responsible body such as yourselves to help to ensure robust press regulation.

**Blocking?** I have been made aware that there may have been attempts made by the government and press to block the establishment of an IRB that is not subject to government, media or corporate influence. There appears to be a danger that your responsible activities could be undermined by the government on behalf of the press and corporate lobbyists.

**Keeping Promises.** I would like to ask you as the consultation body to ensure that the government and relevant parties keep their promises and pledges as stated in the following list:

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.

Yours sincerely

Nick Anderson