

Parliament passed a law in 2013 that would guarantee access to justice for victims of libel and press intrusion. It was designed by the Leveson enquiry to encourage newspapers--especially large, national ones, to join a 'self-regulating' body which would insure responsibility in the use of press freedom.

Three years later most significant publishers have evidenced little intention of following the spirit of Leveson or the letter of the law.

In my opinion, as soon as possible the government should consider establishment of a statutory backstop regulator so as to ensure, at a minimum, press are required to be in the fullest compliance with the criminal and civil law,

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.

For too long, the press has operated without any reciprocal obligations to society for the freedom's society guarantees to it.

This must end.

Best regards

Dr P Ciancanelli