

Writing as a member of the general public, I do not believe that the new system of regulatory oversight of the press is achieving its aim of ensuring the freedom of the press whilst also protecting the interests of the public. Most of the national press is refusing to participate in effective independent regulation. In these circumstances, I believe that Parliament should establish an independent regulator. The PRP should support the Leveson Report which 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."*

I also believe that the PRP should recommend that section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act should be brought into effect as Parliament had intended.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Lawrence