

Dear Sirs

I understand that you are consulting on the proposed response to the Government concerning the establishment of an independent regulator and its recognition by the press. I also understand that the main newspapers have not set up or recognised any independent regulator.

I urge you to report back to the Government that no Independent regulator has been proposed or recognised by the main body of the press and therefore, that the RECOMMENDATION by Levenson should be implemented, namely the introduction of Statutory Regulation of the industry. There appears to be little improvement in the conduct of the press and Statutory Regulation appears to be the only option to control its conduct.

Probably unnecessarily, I remind you of Levenson's recommendation:

1. "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 look forward to noting your report to Parliament.

Yours faithfully

Richard Goldsmith