

Subject: Submission on success of the recognition system

Date: 8 Sep 2017, 17:03:04

To: Consultation consultation@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk

Hi,

Please find below the submission from **MEND (Muslim Engagement and Development)** in response to the consultation on success of the recognition system.

MEND is a not-for-profit company that helps to empower and encourage British Muslims within local communities to be more actively involved in British media and politics.

In our view, the success of the recognition system has been minimal at best. While we welcome the fact that elements of the press have established and joined a regulator which obtained recognition in October 2016, the failure by the Government to implement Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 means that there is insufficient incentive for national publishers to join such a regulator. This also means the public continue to be deprived of access to justice. The fact that the majority of newspapers in this country are not signed up to IMPRESS, but to the non-approved industry-controlled regulator IPSO, means that newspapers continue to publish inflammatory, untrue, and abusive material with no effective course of action for injured parties.

As stated in the [PRP review](#) published in 2016, the success or failure of the Royal Charter cannot be judged until the recognition system, and the cost shifting provisions within the system, are implemented in full. Given that the Conservative Party election manifesto for the 2017 general election pledged to renege on the cross-party agreement and repeal Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013, it appears that only continued public and Parliamentary pressure will force the Government to act on this issue. The PRP, we advise, may consider endorsing further legislation to make the Leveson system work, as Leveson recommended and the PRP noted in its similar Recognition Report last year.

A further aspect the PRP should consider in its review of performance is the lack of public knowledge surrounding what the PRP actually does. Further publicity explaining that the PRP exists to independently establish that press regulators meet minimum standards of independence and effectiveness, as opposed to directly regulating newspapers itself, would provide the public with a greater understanding of the organisation's purpose and function.
