



Press Recognition Panel
Mappin House
4 Winsley Street
London W1W 8HF

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Sent by email only

3 April 2018

Request for a meeting

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to request a meeting to discuss the system of press regulation that was put in place following the Leveson Inquiry.

£5.4 million of taxpayers' money was spent on the Inquiry, the recommendations were debated in Parliament and the new system received cross-party support.

In 2014, £3 million was invested in establishing the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) by Royal Charter as the independent body to oversee press regulation. The PRP has discharged its duties independently, cost-effectively and transparently.

The system was intended to protect the freedom of the press and provide public protections. This is now all under threat. Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2014 has not been commenced, meaning that public protections are not in place.

We are particularly keen to discuss matters with you now, given the widespread misunderstanding and misinformation about the recognition system contemplated by the Charter and Crime and Courts Act 2013, and about how the sector has changed since then.

The PRP notes that following the consultation on the Leveson Inquiry and its implementation, the Government plans to ask Parliament to repeal section 40. The

PRP has grave concerns about this and about the ongoing level of political involvement in these matters.

It is the PRP's independent view that section 40 should be commenced immediately to provide the public protections that Parliament intended following the Leveson inquiry. The public deserve the same levels of protection that they receive from other regulated industries. The matters considered by the Leveson Inquiry remain relevant and the scope of the recognition system remains the same.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wolfe', with a large, stylized initial 'D' and 'W'.

David Wolfe QC
Chair of the Press Recognition Panel