



Department for
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David Wolfe QC
Chair, Press recognition Panel
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Our Ref:
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Dear Mr Wolfe,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 February to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP, regarding the Press Recognition Panel annual report. I am responding as the minister responsible for this policy area.

The government values the system of press self-regulation provided by the Royal Charter and underpinned by the Press Recognition Panel. However, as you will be aware, following a public consultation the government announced last year, we would seek to repeal section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act at the earliest possible opportunity. We believe this course of action is appropriate, proportionate, and in the public interest. The full response can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-leveson-inquiry-and-its-implementation>.

The government also welcomes steps taken by regulators and media outlets to promote improved access to justice for those who have been victims of malpractice by the media. The Independent Press Standards Organisation continues to make improvements in the areas recommended by Sir Brian Leveson, including the introduction of a compulsory version of its arbitration scheme in August. Publishers and self-regulators have also enhanced guidelines on a range of topics including accuracy.

Please do keep me updated with your findings as you see necessary.

Best wishes

Margot James MP
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries

