Dear Richard,

Government response to the report *Press Regulation: where are we now?*

I would first like to apologise for the delay in providing you with a response. Following Purdah and the General Election, I have wanted to give the report proper consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the appointment of the Committee to the House on 8 June. As you will know, I had the pleasure of giving evidence to the previous Committee in March in my prior role as Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, so I know first-hand the important work it does.

I would also like to congratulate the previous Committee on the work it carried out to deliver its inquiry and the resulting report “Press Regulation: where are we now?”. The report was thorough and insightful, giving the subject the kind of assessment it required and that the public deserves. I have attached the Government Response to this report as an annex to this letter.

I look forward to working with you on this and many other matters over the course of the current administration.

Yours ever,

John

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
ANNEX

House of Lords Select Committee on Communications

3rd Report of Session 2014-15 - Press Regulation: where are we now?

Government Response 26 June 2015

The Government welcomes the Select Committee on Communications’ report on Press Regulation published on 23 March 2015.

Since the Royal Charter was granted on 30 October 2013, there have been significant developments made by self-regulators and the Government to meet Lord Justice Leveson’s recommendations for a new, fairer system of independent press self-regulation.

On 8 September 2014, the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) replaced the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) as the industry’s self-regulatory body, and has taken responsibility for enforcing the Editors’ Code of Practice.

The Press Recognition Panel, established by the Royal Charter, on 3 November 2014 as a fully independent body whose purpose it is to consider whether self-regulators applying for recognition meet the criteria set out in the Royal Charter. The Panel is currently consulting on the criteria and has announced it aims to be open for applications in the autumn. In recent weeks the potential alternative self-regulatory body, IMPRESS, has announced that it will seek recognition from the Panel later this year.

Government will observe with interest as the sector takes forward these important steps to ensure a responsible and accountable press.

The Government commends the Committee for its excellent work and would like to thank them for this report, which is another important contribution.