

1st May 2015

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for your recent email with regards to the media.

Conservatives believe in a free, open and diverse media that provides high quality, varied content and we are committed to supporting our world-leading creative industries. That is why we have commissioned Ofcom to analyse the current state of the media market so that we are able to address concerns regarding media ownership in the UK. This assessment will create a benchmark for media plurality in the UK.

The Prime Minister set up the Leveson Inquiry because of the appalling treatment suffered by people like the Dowlers, the McCanns, Christopher Jefferies and many other innocent people at the hands of some elements of the press. It was right to hold a public inquiry into press practices to see what lessons needed to be learned.

The Leveson inquiry investigated these practices and events, and as a result we brought forward our plans for a Royal Charter which secured all-party agreement. This Charter has created a robust system of press regulation that delivers up-front apologies, million-pound fines, a self-regulatory body with independence of appointments and funding, and an arbitration service free for victims.

Our action to deliver a robust Royal Charter means that we have an effective system of press regulation that gives confidence that bad practices will be stopped while ensuring our cherished press freedoms are protected.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma