

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

*Dear Confront,*

**RE: PRIVACY AND THE PRESS.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of privacy laws in the UK; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I believe that a vibrant, open and free press that is able to hold the powerful to account is vital to our democracy. Balanced against this, it is not unreasonable to expect the press to act with understanding in relation to sensitive personal stories. Press freedom comes with a responsibility to ensure it is not abused.

I am pleased that following the publication of the *Leveson Inquiry* in 2012, we have seen great improvements in press regulation with the formation of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and Impress, which have the power to hold publications to account, including ordering prominent corrections. Both regulators are independent of Government and enforce 'Codes of Practice', which include provisions on privacy and intrusion. They both operate free complaints handling systems and low cost arbitration schemes.

Around 95 percent of national newspapers are now overseen by IPSO. Members of IPSO are required to follow the *Editors' Code*, which requires journalists to respect people's right to privacy, to stop approaches when asked to do so, and to ensure reports are accurate.

I know that some feel the Government should intervene to limit the press in the interests of personal privacy, but I am satisfied that there has been sufficient progress made since 2012 and that this is not necessary at this stage. I am assured that in cases relating to privacy, the individuals affected are able to complain to IPSO who will investigate vigorously and sanction the publication in question if appropriate.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you, then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**