

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Public Supports Implementation of Leveson

Poll shows almost three quarters of public back implementation of Leveson and want more transparency in relationships between politicians and the media.

- **74%** believe the government should implement Lord Justice Leveson's recommendations – against **9%** who do not
- **73%** would have 'not much' or 'no' confidence in a new system of voluntary press regulation with no legal backing
- **83%** think that politicians like Boris Johnson and George Osborne should either not be having dinner with people like Rupert Murdoch (**27%**) or, if they do, should be transparent about them (**56%**)

A YouGov poll of 2,030 GB Adults (18+), commissioned by the Media Standards Trust and conducted on 31st January – 1st February, has shown strong public support behind implementation of Lord Justice Leveson's recommendations for a new system of press regulation.

The public also feel that the recommendations of the report should be implemented quickly – **64%** favour introduction of a new regulatory system within 12 months or sooner

In the same poll, respondents agreed strongly with Leveson's recommendations about transparency in the relationship between senior politicians and media owners, newspaper editors and senior executives:

- **73%** believe that meetings between politicians and senior media figures should be made public, against **10%** who believe they should not
- **83%** think that politicians like Boris Johnson and George Osborne should either not be having dinner with people like Rupert Murdoch (**27%**) or, if they do, should be transparent about them (**56%**)

A clear majority of the public back a new law to underpin the new system. **52%** believe that press regulation requires legal backing to be effective and independent, compared with **23%** who feel that legal backing would risk freedom of the press and political interference.

Confidence and trust in the role of the press in setting up a new regulatory system is low – **73%** would have 'not much' or 'no' confidence in a new system of voluntary press regulation with no legal backing, while **82%** see a risk in a repeat of the press abuses revealed during the Leveson Inquiry, if the press continues to be regulate themselves through a similar system to the current one.

There is public support for Leveson's key recommendations:

- **79%** think it is important that there is regular independent oversight of the system set up by the press
- **73%** think it is important that a system of arbitration is introduced as an alternative to courts

Director of the Media Standards Trust, Dr. Martin Moore, said "This poll shows that the public overwhelmingly support implementation of Leveson, and do not have confidence in a system set up by the press without proper independent oversight. There's a real fear that, if things do not change substantially, the same illegal and unethical practices will recur."

"The public also want politicians to become a lot more transparent, and not revert to the cosy relationships they enjoyed before the Leveson Inquiry was set up"

To see the full results and graphs go to: www.yougov.com

To discuss the results or for further comment please contact Dr. Gordon Ramsay at +44 (0)20 7727 5252 or gordon.ramsay@mediastandardstrust.org

Note to editors

To see the poll results in full go to: www.yougov.com

The Media Standards Trust does not support government regulation of the press. The MST supports an independent system of regulation that is entirely free of any government intervention and free from undue influence by large media corporations. You can read the MST's proposal for a new system, as submitted to the Leveson Inquiry in the summer, [here](#)

The Media Standards Trust is an independent charity that fosters high standards in news on behalf of the public. It does this through research, through the Orwell Prize for political writing and by developing online news resources for the public including journalisted.com, churnalism.com and unsourced.org.

The Media Standards Trust is entirely separate from the Hacked Off campaign. The Hacked Off campaign is a non-profit limited company (Company Number 08176670) based in Victoria Street. You can contact them at www.hackinginquiry.org.

For more information or to discuss the results please contact Dr. Gordon Neil Ramsay on +44 (0)20 7727 5252 or at gordon.ramsay@mediastandardstrust.org

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2,030 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 31st January – 1st February 2013. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). YouGov is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by their rules.

All data is derived from categories with more than 100 responses, ensuring reliability of results