

## **The 18 March Cross-Party Royal Charter (with Parliamentary approval)**

*Material differences from Leveson recommendations*

### ***Closeness to Leveson: virtually as close as LibDem/Labour 15 March draft***

This charter is virtually identical to the LibDem/Labour version published as an alternative to the Conservative version on 15<sup>th</sup> March. The only differences from that version are; qualification of the clause regarding composition of the Code committee, responsibility for reporting the budgets of the recognition panel, and clarification of the general recognition clause.

In the 18 March version of the document in article 11.2 (annual budget and achieving Value for Money) the reference to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has been changed to Lord Chancellor

## **Independence**

### **From political influence**

Same as Conservative and LibDem/Labour Charters of 15<sup>th</sup> March, except that, as with the LibDem/Labour version, there is also to be legal protection from interference by Minister or other Privy Councillors.

*Funding:* the Recognition Panel will present its budgets, on request, to the Lord Chancellor rather than, in the Conservative draft Charter, to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

### **From press influence**

Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.

## **Arbitration** (Schedule 3, paragraph 22)

Same as Conservative and LibDem/Labour Charters.

## **Powers**

### **Of the Recognition Panel**

*Decision making:* Same as LibDem/Labour Charter, although the general clause is clarified with reference to 'the Leveson Report, Part K, Chapter 7, Section 4' (Schedule 2,1).

*Ad hoc reviews:* Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.

*Reporting on failure:* Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.

### **Of the regulator**

*Corrections and apologies:* Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.

*Investigations:* Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.

*Fines:* Same as Conservative and LibDem/Labour Charter.

### **The Standards Code**

Same as LibDem/Labour Charter, with the addition of a qualification that journalists on the Code Committee be working national or local journalists (where relevant).

### **Complaints**

#### **Third Party Complaints**

Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.

### **Open Access to Publishers**

Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.

### **Other recommendations**

Same as LibDem/Labour Charter.