



HuffPost UK
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Dear Mr Wolfe

I am writing in response to your letter of 17 September 2018.

I am not clear of the basis on which you are undertaking the assessment of HuffPost and other 'significant publishers' against the Royal Charter criteria.

My understanding is that your purpose (as described in the Royal Charter) is to "*carry on activities relating to the recognition of Regulators*". The assessment of publishers who are not part of a recognised regulator is not related to that purpose and I am advised that the Press Recognition Panel is acting 'ultra vires' in conducting the assessment you describe.

I note that part of your role is to "*report on any success or failure of the recognition system*" but do not understand how an assessment of HuffPost's processes in any way serves that purpose. Nor is it in the public interest for you to conduct an assessment with no legal grounds or clear rationale.

I understand that HuffPost is not alone in raising this issue.

Given the ambiguity over the status of your proposed assessment and the questions this raises over whether you are acting outside of your stated remit, HuffPost will not be participating in your review at this point.

I would be grateful if you could confirm by Friday 19 October whether the the Press Recognition Panel intends to proceed with the assessment notwithstanding the concerns I and others have raised.

For clarity, this response is not for publication.

Yours,

Polly Curtis

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