

# Media Bill

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## AMENDMENT

### TO BE MOVED

#### IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

*[Supplementary to the Marshalled List]*

Amendment  
No.

#### After Clause 50

LORD WATSON OF WYRE FOREST

87A★ After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause—

#### **“Public right of reply against publishers of news-related material**

- (1) Where a relevant publisher publishes information which contains significant factual inaccuracy, a person to whom the information relates (“the Complainant”) has a right to have a reply or correction published by the relevant publisher.
- (2) The relevant publisher editor must publish a reply or correction, free of charge and without undue delay, to the same extent and in the same manner as the inaccurate information.
- (3) A demand for a reply or correction must be made in writing within the period of 14 days beginning with the later of—
  - (a) the date of publication of the inaccurate information, and
  - (b) the date on which the complainant first becomes aware of the publication;but a demand may not be made after the end of the period of one year beginning with the date of publication.
- (4) The relevant publisher may refuse to publish a reply if it is inaccurate, unlawful or offensive.
- (5) If the demand for a reply or correction is rejected, the relevant publisher must provide written notice of the rejection and the reasons for it during the period of 7 days beginning with the date of the receipt of the demand.
- (6) The Complainant may apply to the High Court to determine whether subsections (1) to (5) have been complied with.
- (7) An application must be made during the period of 30 days beginning with the date of receipt by the Complainant of written notification of the reasons for the rejection (or of the expiry of the period for notifying the rejection, where no notice is received), unless the Court permits a later application.

- (8) The Court may order the relevant publisher to comply with this section and may make any other order.
- (9) This section does not apply to a relevant publisher which was, at the date of the publication complained of, a member of an approved regulator.
- (10) In this section –
  - “approved regulator” has the same meaning as in section 42 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013, and
  - “relevant publisher” has the same meaning as in section 41 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013.”

***Member's explanatory statement***

*This new Clause would introduce a public right of reply against relevant publishers of news-related material outside of an approved regulator, to provide an alternative legislative regime to underpin the Royal Charter system of independent press regulation to replace section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 (which is repealed by Clause 50).*



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*7 May 2024*

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