

Dr Steve Thompson:

Dear editors

It is really quite simple. In a free (as in anarchic) world, self-regulation will sooner or later become a joke, and 'you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours' will become the order of the day - as it has with you lot. The committee that determines the extent of transgression and the penalty has to be separate from and independent of the working press. You do yourselves, your children and the society we all live in a gross disservice by abusing the privilege of your freedoms. These are the days of Trump Truths and Facebook Facts. You can do better than mindlessly slagging off the political opponents of your employers and destroying various unfortunate individuals who appear in your sights; wouldn't you rather? Please be brave and accept truly independent judgement for the betterment of your work, yourselves and society. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Steve Thompson