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The first part of Clause 17 of the Crime and Courts Bill states that:

“Awards of costs

(1) This section applies where—

- (a) a relevant claim is made against a person (“the defendant”),
- (b) the defendant **was a relevant publisher** at the material time, and
- (c) the claim is related to the publication of news-related material.

(2) If the defendant was a member of an approved regulator at the time when the claim was commenced (or was unable to be a member at that time for reasons beyond the defendant’s control or it would have been unreasonable in the circumstances for the defendant to have been a member at that time), the court must not award costs against the defendant unless satisfied that—

- (a) the issues raised by the claim could not have been resolved by using an arbitration scheme of the approved regulator, or
- (b) it is just and equitable in all the circumstances of the case to award costs against the defendant.

This is the costs benefit provided by the regulator that will be very beneficial for journalism. We want to know if you think that it should only be available to “relevant publishers”, or to anyone who joins a recognised regulator.

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