



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

July 2017

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about 21st Century Fox's proposed purchase of Sky.

As you are probably aware, Sky has received an approach from 21st Century Fox to acquire the 61 per cent share of Sky that it does not yet already own.

The 2017 Conservative manifesto committed to terminating Part 2 of the Leveson Inquiry. I understand that the Government is committed to doing this.

You may be aware that the Government recently held a public consultation on the Leveson Inquiry and its implementation. I am informed that over 140,000 responses were received and Ministers will respond to the consultation in due course.

Under the powers set out in the Enterprise Act 2002, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has a quasi-judicial role that allows her to intervene on the basis of specified media public interest considerations. These considerations refer to the need for there to be a sufficient plurality of media ownership, for the availability of a wide range of high-quality broadcasting and for those with control of media enterprises to have a genuine commitment to broadcasting standards objectives.

On the 16th March 2017, the Secretary of State issued a European Intervention Notice on the grounds of media plurality and commitment to broadcasting standards. This decision was made after hearing representations from Sky, 21st Century Fox and many other third parties.

This decision triggered action by Ofcom to assess and report on the public interest grounds specified and for the Competition and Markets Authority to report on jurisdiction by the 20th June.

Following this, on the 29th June the Secretary of State released her minded-to - not final - decisions on whether to refer the merger to a full phase two investigation. More details of these can be found on the below webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/skyfox-merger>

The Secretary of State will now be taking representations on her minded-to positions until the 14th July and she will then consider the evidence received before coming to a final decision on both grounds of media plurality and commitment to broadcasting standards.