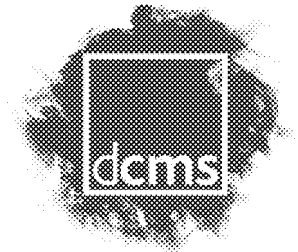


Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Jonathan Stephens
Permanent Secretary

2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
www.culture.gov.uk

Tel 020 7211 6255
Fax 020 7211 6259
jonathan.stephens@culture.gsi.gov.uk

Rt Hon Harriet Harman Q.C. MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



department for
culture, media
and sport

11th May 2012

Dear Harriet Harman,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd May 2012.

The PM and Secretary of State have emphasised that issues around the handling of the proposed News Corp/BskyB merger are matters for the Leveson inquiry, in the first instance, as part of its consideration of relations between the press and politicians, including media ownership.

As I have previously made clear, and as is normal and proper in the course of such processes, a small number of individuals within the Department, including Adam Smith, had contact with News Corp. Those involved were advised of the proper process to adopt at all stages through legal and policy advice. In this and all other cases codes governing the behaviour of Ministers, civil servants and special advisers inform appropriate behaviour.

The Secretary of State has submitted full written evidence to the Leveson Inquiry and will respond to any questions the Inquiry asks. His full evidence will be published by the Inquiry, and will cover the issues you raise.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Stephens

