



7 July 2011

Lord Prescott  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

**ED RICHARDS**  
Chief Executive

Direct Telephone  
Direct Facsimile


*Dear Lord Prescott,*

Thank you for your letter of 4 July.

In relation to the proposed acquisition by News Corporation of the shares in BSkyB it does not already own, we provided our advice to the Secretary of State on the undertakings proposed by News Corporation in lieu of a reference to the Competition Commission on 22 June 2011. The Secretary of State is currently consulting for a further period. If the Secretary of State asks us for any further advice in relation to new consultation responses, we will of course respond in accordance with the terms of his request.

Separately, I can confirm that Ofcom has a duty under the Broadcasting Acts to be satisfied on an on-going basis that any person holding a broadcasting licence remains fit and proper to hold such a licence.

It is clearly not for Ofcom to investigate matters which properly lie in the hands of the police and the courts, however we are monitoring the situation closely and in particular the investigations by the relevant authorities into the alleged unlawful activities.

You also asked about Ofcom's legal duties to protect people from having their privacy invaded. Our duty in this area concerns unwarranted infringements of privacy in relation to the making and the content of television and radio programmes. For the avoidance of doubt, our privacy duties relate to broadcasting only and we have no jurisdiction in relation to the press.

I hope this clarifies the position in relation to the matters you have raised.

In view of the wider public interest in the issues that you have raised, I propose to place this letter on the Ofcom website later today.

*Yours sincerely*

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**Ed Richards**

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