

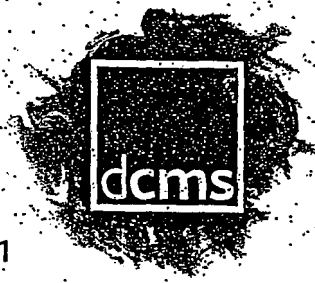
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Les Hinton
Executive Chairman
News International plc
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17 August 2001

Dear Mr Hinton

Thank you for your letter of 8 August, setting out News International's views on cross-media ownership and foreign ownership rules. We are in the process of drawing up the proposals on these issues, to be published in the draft Communications Bill next year, and we welcome your input. Once the draft Bill is published, there will be a three-month period of formal consultation on its detail. If in the meantime you want to offer further comments, please contact me or my officials - we will be happy to consider them.

I enjoyed meeting you, and look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



RP

DR KIM HOWELLS MP
(Approved by the Minister
and signed in his absence)



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