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Confidential

27 January 2011

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State
Department of Culture, Media & Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1 5DH

Your reference

Our reference
BJFL
Direct line
020 7090 4173

Dear Mr Hunt

News Corp/BSkyB Merger

I refer to your statement of 25th January.

I write on behalf of BT, Guardian Media Group, Associated Newspapers Limited, Trinity Mirror Plc, Northcliffe Media and Telegraph Media Group (together the "Concerned Parties").

In your statement, you conclude (consistent with Ofcom's advice) that the merger would give rise to plurality issues which warrant investigation by the Competition Commission.

You then set in motion a process under which OFT and Ofcom are asked to explore possible "undertakings in lieu" with News Corp and to report to you on whether such undertakings would be effective to address "the potential impact of media plurality".

You only propose to go out to public consultation however, after you have provisionally decided (in the light of the advice from OFT and Ofcom) to accept such undertakings.

In order to ensure that the overall process is both fair and thorough, it will therefore be critical for Ofcom/OFT and the Secretary of State to consult with key industry players (including the Concerned Parties) ahead of the provisional decision.

The Concerned Parties stand ready to take part in this earlier consultation and to provide such assistance as would be helpful.

In advance of which, it would be very helpful to understand the respective roles of Ofcom and OFT and the timing for next steps.

CFI Saul
SM Edge
NPG Boardman
CW James
EA Codrington
RMC Goulding
CES Seligman
PJ Bennett
RM Fox
RJ Thornhill
CJ Ains
GP White
NJ Archer
AG Ballfour
CM Horton
EA Barrett

PP Chappatte
RIN Cripps
P Jolliffe
CD Randall
WSM Robinson
RV Carson
SL Edwards
JM Featherby
F Murphy
PM Olney
PH Stacey
CWY Underhill
OA Wareham
RJ Clark
SJ Cooke
DL Finkler

CW Harvey-Kelly
JD Rice
MA Whelton
MD Bennett
RD de Carte
SP Hall
WJ Sibree
RC Stern
JR Triggs
EGL Wylde
A Beare
JD Boyce
MEM Hattrell
KI Hodgson
N von Bismarck
PWH Brien

JM Fenn
AN Hyman
AC Johnson
EF Keeble
KR Davis
SR Galbraith
NDF Gray
MS Hutchinson
SRB Powell
AG Ryde
JAD Marks
SD Warnakula-suriya
DA Wittmann
TS Boxell
SJ Luder
AJ McClean

JC Twentyman
GN Eaborn
HK Griffiths
STM Lee
AC Cleaver
EJD Holden
KM Hughes
G Iversen
DR Johnson
RE Levitt
S Middlemis
RA Swallow
DCR Waterfield
Dj Bicknell
CS Cameron
CA Connolly

PJ Cronin
BJ-PF Louveaux
MS Rowe
MST Leung
R Doughty
E Michael
RR Ogle
SL Paterson
PC Snell
HL Davies
JC Putnis
RA Sumroy
GP Brown
JC Cotton
RJ Turnill
WNC Watson

MJ Dwyer
CNR Jeffs
SR Nicholls
MJ Tobin
DG Watkins
BKP Yu
EC Brown
RA Chaplin
J Edwarde
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I have sent a similar letter to the OFT and Ofcom.

[Redacted signature area]

Bertrand Louveaux

cc. [Redacted]