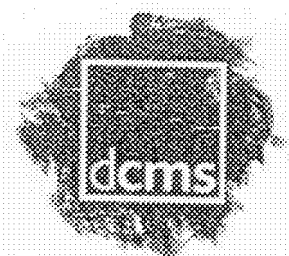


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Your Ref:
Our Ref: 164664/JB/31

Tom Watson MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

8 February 2011

Dear Tom

Thank you for your letter of 24 January about News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB.

You present arguments in favour of intervening on the basis of the public interest consideration specified at Section 58(2C)(c) of the Enterprise Act 2002 – this being concerned with the need for a genuine commitment to the broadcasting standards objectives set out in the Communications Act 2003.

As you know, a European Intervention Notice has already been issued in relation to this proposed merger. Had the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills believed this to be appropriate, he could have opted to identify in the intervention notice more than one of the considerations specified in section 58 of the Enterprise Act. In fact, the intervention notice was made only on the basis of the public interest consideration specified at Section 58(2C)(a) of the Act – this being concerned with need to ensure a sufficiency of plurality of persons with control of media enterprises.

Section 67(5) of the Enterprise Act 2002 provides that no more than one European Intervention Notice may be given in relation to the same relevant merger situation. Accordingly, it is not possible to make a further intervention in respect of this case on the basis of a different specified public interest consideration.

With best wishes



Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

