

Chronology

This chronology is produced as part of my witness statement to the Inquiry and is exhibited as "VC2". Also exhibited to my statement is a paginated bundle of papers "VC1". References provided in this chronology are to page references of that bundle. In order to make the text below easy to follow, I refer to myself as "the Secretary of State" and, where necessary, give the full titles of other Secretaries of State.

Date	Event	Document Reference
JUNE 2010		
<i>Announcement of News Corporation's bid for full control of BSkyB</i>		
15 June 2010	Secretary of State's office receives request for a telephone call from James Murdoch to the Secretary of State and requests background information from Department officials	50, 52-53
	Department officials speak with News Corporation representatives	64
	Secretary of State receives call from James Murdoch to confirm News Corporation's proposal to acquire the remaining balance of shares in BSkyB	51
17 June 2010	Call from James Murdoch's office to the Secretary of State's office requesting a meeting and Department officials consider if this would be appropriate and useful	55-56
18 June 2010	Department officials provide note to the Secretary of State's office	54
21 June 2010	Secretary of State's office informs officials that they will be notified once a meeting is set up with James Murdoch; subsequently no meeting is arranged.	55
<i>Representations</i>		
23 June 2010	Letter sent to the Secretary of State from the TUC expressing concern about the proposed acquisition	57
25 June 2010	Information Note from Department officials sent to Secretary of State's office covering the scope of the proposed acquisition to give rise to concerns relevant to the public interest consideration on the plurality of media following a request for further information	58, 61-63
28 June 2010	Secretary of State's office thanks Department officials for their advice which the Secretary of State read over the weekend and requests Department officials provide updates on this matter as the case progresses, particularly if there should be any representations made for intervention	58
JULY 2010		

Date	Event	Document Reference
20 July 2010	Hogan Lovells (on behalf of News Corporation) provide a briefing note to Department officials including representations on why the acquisition would not justify intervention	64-82
21 July 2010	Department officials provide a draft response to the TUC letter of 23 June 2010 to the Secretary of State's office indicating a response on any competition issues would be considered by OFT	83-84
23 July 2010	Following request from the Secretary of State, Department officials provide to the Secretary of State's office a revised draft response to the TUC with explanation of Secretary of State's powers and also submit the Briefing Note from Hogan Lovells (on behalf of News Corporation) (received on 20 July 2010) setting out their arguments as to why intervention in the proposed acquisition would not be justified	85-87
29 July 2010	Secretary of State's office requests, and Department officials provide, further amendments to the response to the TUC to include further information on the Guidance on intervention	88-92
30 July 2010	Guardian Media Group writes to the Secretary of State requesting the matter be considered for intervention	93-94
	Enders Analysis writes to the Secretary of State, enclosing a report, requesting intervention.	95--115
AUGUST 2010		
2 August 2010	The Secretary of State amends the draft response to the TUC to make it clear he awaits sight of representations and has not prejudged the outcome. The Secretary of State also requests an update from Department officials on the representations received and expected	116-118
	Response is sent to the TUC	119-120
3 August 2010	Department officials provide information to the Secretary of State's office regarding the representations received to date, advice on the scope to intervene, the Enders Analysis submission and a view regarding the position of the EU commission.	121-122
6 August 2010	Department officials provide to the Secretary of State's office a draft response to the letter from Guardian Media Group and advise that matters raised concerning the regulatory framework for media ownership fall to DCMS	123-126
13 August 2010	BT writes to the Secretary of State to make the case for intervention	127-135
15 August 2010	Department officials provide to the Secretary of State's office a draft response to the Enders Analysis representations	136-139
16 August 2010	Trinity Mirror plc writes to the Secretary of State to make the case for intervention	140-142

Date	Event	Document Reference
23 August 2010	Department officials prepare a briefing on News Corporation's proposed acquisition in advance of the Secretary of State's meeting with the TUC	143-144
25 August 2010	Secretary of State's office informed by Department officials that a telephone call was received from Hogan Lovells (on behalf of News Corporation) with an update on the proposed acquisition. Secretary of State's office requests additional information on the type of evidence required/expected from those wishing to make representations	147-148
	Secretary of State meets with the TUC	145-146
<i>Discussion on the case for and against intervention</i>		
26 August 2010	Secretary of State's office request a briefing meeting with Department officials to discuss the case and Department officials provide a discussion paper in advance	149-154
	Secretary of State sends response to Guardian Media Group's letter of 30 July 2010; Enders Analysis letter of 30 July 2010; BT's letter of 13 August 2010; and Trinity Mirror plc's letter of 16 August 2010	155-162
SEPTEMBER 2010		
3 September 2010	Department officials provide a submission of advice to the Secretary of State on the case for intervention on public interest grounds including an analysis of the issues to be considered and the representations received to date	163-173
6 September 2010	Department officials meet with the Secretary of State to discuss the matter further and advise	175
<i>Counsel's Advice</i>		
9 September 2010	Counsel instructed to advise on the Secretary of State's scope to act in relation to the proposed acquisition.	176-186, 1-48, 171-173, 95-115, 93-94, 140-142, 293
15 September 2010	Department officials confirm to the Secretary of State's office that legal advice is awaited	187
16 September 2010	Summary of Counsel's advice provided to the Secretary of State	188-191
	BT writes to the Secretary of State urging intervention	192-193
20 September 2010	BBC writes to the Secretary of State on the case for intervention	194-195
22 September 2010	Department officials report to the Secretary of State's office that Hogan Lovells (on behalf of News Corporation) intend to file the merger Notice with the European Commission early next week and note also that they will be submitting further representations	196-197
24 September 2010	Formal note of legal advice resulting from conference with Counsel provided to Secretary of State's office	197-203

Date	Event	Document Reference
27 September 2010	Secretary of State's office thanks Department officials for their advice	204-206
	Secretary of State's office request advice from Department officials regarding a request to deliver a petition regarding the proposed acquisition	207-210
29 September 2010	Lines to take discussed and revised to include amendments by the Secretary of State	211
<i>Second set of Representations from News Corporation</i>		
29 September 2010	Hogan Lovells (on behalf of News Corporation) write to the Secretary of State enclosing further representations on the case against intervention	212-224
OCTOBER 2010		
1 October 2010	Department officials provide a submission of advise to the Secretary of State on the case for intervention	225-231
<i>Intervention Preparation</i>		
8 October 2010	Department officials provide to the Secretary of State's office a draft Statement to Parliament	232-234
	Joint letter received from a 'broad cross-section of the UK's communications and media industries' to the Secretary of State cwith a legal opinion from Slaughter and May on the case for intervention	235-248
14 October 2010	Letter and Petition received from 38 Degrees	249
	The Financial Times writes to the Secretary of State on the case for intervention	250-261
	Secretary of State sends response to BT's letter of 16 September 2010	262
20 October 2010	Secretary of State responds to the representations provided by Slaughter and May on 8 October 2010	263
22 October 2010	Capital Research and Management write to the Secretary of State expressing support for News Corporation's proposed acquisition	264-265
<i>Third set of Representations from News Corporation</i>		
27 October 2010	Hogan Lovells (on behalf of News Corporation) submit further representations to the Secretary of State on the matter of intervention	266-279
28 October 2010	Department officials provide a copy of News Corporation's further submissions to the Secretary of State's office	280-281
29 October 2010	Department officials finalise draft response to the 38 Degrees Petition and provide to the Secretary of State's office	282-284
NOVEMBER 2010		

Date	Event	Document Reference
1 November 2010	Secretary of State's office requests, and is provided, an update on Counsel's advice on further representations from News Corporation and is also notified about representations received from Capital Research and Management	285-287
<i>News Corporation files formal Notification with the Commission and the Secretary of State issues an Intervention Notice</i>		
3 November 2010	Department officials and the Secretary of State's office agree lines to take and prepare for intervention	288-294
	Department officials provide advance notice of the intervention to News Corporation's representatives	295-300
	Berenberg Bank forward to the Secretary of State a public report prepared by them on the case for intervention	301-323
4 November 2010	Department officials write to Ofcom asking that Ofcom reports pursuant to the issued Intervention Notice	324-327
	Department officials notify the Commission of the Intervention Notice	328
	The Secretary of State's Office requests, and receives, further information on the next steps in the process	329-331
8 November 2010	Department officials provide a short factual note on the Intervention process to the Secretary of State's office	16.51
9 November 2010	News Corporation's representatives write to Department officials seeking clarity on the reasons for intervention	332-335
11 November 2010	News Corporation's letter of 9 November 2010 sent to Secretary of State's office with draft response, for information	336-338
	Department officials suggest an updated standard line for any future correspondence following a request from the Secretary of State's office on 4 November 2011	339-343
15 November 2010	Response to Hogan Lovell's (on behalf of News Corporation) letter of 9 November 2010 sent out by Department officials	344-348
22 November 2010	Hogan Lovells (on behalf of News Corporation) write to Department Officials in response to the Department's letter of 15 November 2010	349-353
	Department official's flag to the Secretary of State that Ofcom may request an extension	354
24 November 2010	Department officials provide draft response to News Corporation's letter of 22 November 2010, to the Secretary of State's office	354
25 November 2010	The Secretary of State's office clears the response to News Corporation's letter of 22 November 2010	354
	Letter sent from Department officials to News Corporation in response to letter dated 22 November 2010	355-357
29 November 2010	Secretary of State speaks with Commissioner Almunia receiving an update on the likely timings of the conclusion of the Commission's investigation which is circulated to Department officials	358-359
DECEMBER 2010		
9 December 2010	Secretary of State meets with the Editor of The Times	360

Date	Event	Document Reference
13 December 2010	Department officials submit a note on the next stages in the process of Intervention in the proposed acquisition to the Secretary of State	361-363
16 December 2010	Secretary of State's office confirms the Secretary of State has noted the contents of the Department's submission of 13 December 2010.	364
	Department officials provide an additional note to the Secretary of State's office on next steps	365-370
21 December 2010	The Secretary of State's office request confirmation as to when the Commission's report will appear in the public domain and Department officials provide and update	371-372

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON
INQUIRY

Exhibit VC2
