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Confidential

27 January 2011

Sheldon Mills
Office of Fair Trading
Fleetbank House
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Your reference

Our reference
BJFL
Direct line
020 7090 4173

Dear Sheldon

News Corp/BSkyB Merger

I refer to the Secretary of State's 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 his statement, the Secretary of State concludes (consistent with Ofcom's advice) that the merger would give rise to plurality issues which warrant investigation by the Competition Commission.

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

The Secretary of State only proposes to go out to public consultation however, after he has 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 better how each of Ofcom and OFT see their respective roles and the timing for next steps.

CFI Saul
SM Edge
NPG Boardman
CW James
EA Codrington
RMG Goulding
GES Seligman
PJ Bennett
RM Fox
RJ Thornhill
CJ Airs
GP White
NJ Archer
AG Balfour
CM Horton
EA Barrett

PP Chappatte
RJN 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 Carle
SP Hall
WJ Sibree
RC Stern
JR Triggs
EGL Wyfde
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

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

PJ Cronin
SJ-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 Edwards
AD Jolly
S Maudgil
JS Nevin
JA Papanichola
JM Zaman
RA Byk
GA Miles

GE O'Keefe
T Pharoah
MD Zerdin
SFL Cardell
RL Cousin
BJ Kingsley
IAM Taylor
DA Ives
MC Lane
LMC Chung
RJ Smith

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SLAUGHTER AND MAY

I have sent a similar letter to Ofcom and the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely

A rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact the signature of Bertrand Louveaux. The box is empty, indicating the signature has been removed for security or privacy reasons.

Bertrand Louveaux