



22nd October 2017

Dear Competition and Markets Authority

Submission re Rupert Murdoch and Sky

The following are my reasons for requesting that you do not allow this proposed takeover to go ahead.

Media Plurality – too much concentration of Media Power

Please, please, please, please do NOT put the media news of the UK into too few hands, and very questionable hands, by allowing Rupert Murdoch to take over SKY. He already controls our largest selling daily, our largest selling Sunday paper, and our largest selling "Quality" paper. To give him potential influence through Sky as well would undermine one of the basic planks of democracy - a free media.

Media Plurality – too much influence on politicians

Rupert Murdoch is well known for having meetings with key political figures in the UK, and it has been reported in the less partisan elements of the press that he has not only influenced the policies of major politicians, but also who is elected as our Prime Minister. With the acquisition of Sky his empire would have excessive power and I do not want Murdoch to have more influence than he already inappropriately has over our elected politicians. It is not consistent with a free democracy responsive to its electorate, if both politicians and electorate are open to manipulation by one man, or one family.

Broadcasting Standards – risk of promotion of extremist and divisive views contrary to British traditions

Fox News in the US is a demonstration of what could happen to news in the UK in the wrong (Murdoch) hands. Fox News has attacked Muslims and refugees, and aired inaccurate stories, and hounds innocent people. The polarisation of American society, and growth of hatred, in recent years has been influenced by Fox News, and not in a way which is beneficial to that country.

It would be a terrible thing if the judgement of the CMA led to the same, possibly permanent shift in the UK, in conflict with our centuries old tradition of a two-party (now with additional smaller parties) approach where there is always opposition, but opposition with respect. We have seen in the murder of Jo Cox MP what hatred can do to our society. Further, if hatred is whipped up against our Muslim population, this will threaten the safety of our citizens as such propaganda tends to incite extreme reaction from a vulnerable or dangerous minority.

Broadcasting standards – lack of truthfulness, pressure on journalists to distort the truth

There have been accusations, which seem to be substantiated, that Murdoch's Fox News Channel in the USA has suppressed the truth and set out to substitute false news. I request that the members of the Inquiry Panel watch this video (Fox News kills Monsanto Milk story):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axU9nqbTxKw>

It reports that Rupert Murdoch's TV stations killed a story prepared by its reporters revealing that Monsanto falsified the cancer risks of selling milk containing human growth hormone - then sacked the reporters who prepared the story because they would not put out a false alternative story.

There are other examples of exaggerated or simply inaccurate reporting, designed (I suggest) to promote fear and misplaced emotional reaction against minority groups, for example:

newsbeat

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People mock Fox News claim that terror attack 'shut down city'

LIFE | 23 Mar 2017



the Westminster terror attacker "shut down" London.

Walid Phares said: "One man can shut down a city..." during the Tucker Carlson Tonight show.

Twitter users defied him by posting photos of clear roads and public transport working as normal.

Phares is employed as a terrorism expert by Fox News.

Walid Phares @WalidPhares [Follow](#)

Will be on Tucker on Fox News at 9 AM EST to discuss the terror act in London. "One man can shut down a city.."

23:25 - 22 Mar 2017

1,734 39 85

Walid Phares @WalidPhares 22 Mar

To Fox Business Channel: "One man can shut down a city. The new face of terror"



The BBC's political correspondent, Laura Kuenssberg, was reporting from Westminster when the attack happened.

Walid Phares @WalidPhares 22 Mar

Will be on Tucker on Fox News at 9 AM EST to discuss the terror act in London. "One man can shut down a city.."

Laura Kuenssberg @bbclaurak [Follow](#)

with respect that's completely wrong-small area of our city is closed off, millions, including politicians going about our work

10:40 - 23 Mar 2017

7 46 220

London cafes are welcoming visitors

Clar shared a picture of her journey this morning.





Clár Ní Fhearaill
@ClareFarrell

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Replying to @WalidPhares

The #districtline at 7.40am #london #londonisopen
#WeAreNotAfraid #westminster

08:47 - 23 Mar 2017

Willard says he works near Westminster.



Willard Foxton Todd ✓
@WillardFoxton

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Replying to @WalidPhares

@WalidPhares Get real. I work less than 10 mins walk from scene, everything normal this morning. Even yesterday, no disruption

09:36 - 23 Mar 2017

4 22 175

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT AGREE TO THIS TAKEOVER.

Yours faithfully,

George Hosking OBE Croydon, England