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.

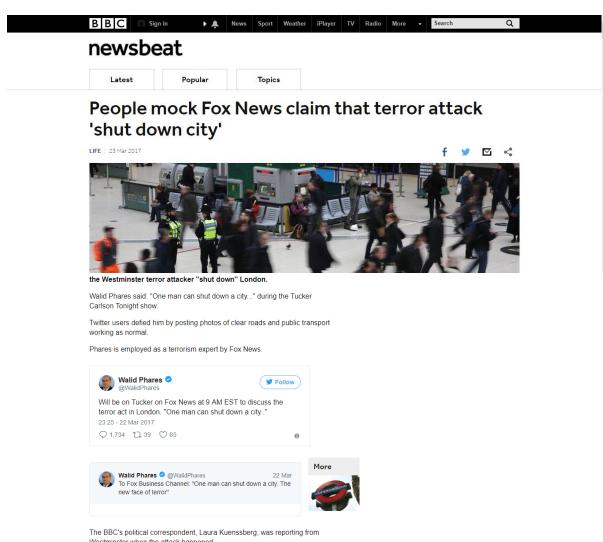
Broadcasting standards - lack of truthfulness, pressure on journalists to distort the truth

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=axU9ngbTxKw

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:



Westminster when the attack happened.



Clar shared a picture of her journey this morning.





PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT AGREE TO THIS TAKEOVER.

Yours faithfully,

George Hosking OBE Croydon, England