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Sharon White,
Chief Executive,
Ofcom,
Riverside House,
2A Southwark Bridge Road,
London SE1 9HA.

15th June 2017

Dear Ms White,

I am writing to support the widespread concerned requests for the rejection of the current bid for full ownership of BskyB by News Corp.

At the time of the phone hacking News Corp was identified as a “rogue corporation” and a “criminal enterprise” and faced the rare possibility of corporate charges both here and in the US. News Corp paid \$224 million in damages, compensation and fees for lawyers after years of denial, lies and obstruction, finally forced into retreat by evidence of hacking into the murdered schoolgirl Millie Dowler’s phone. After initially claiming that there were few victims the Metropolitan police eventually revealed that there may well have been 4000 victims of hacking.

Rupert Murdoch was labelled “not a fit person to exercise stewardship of a major international company” (media select committee) and had exhibited a “serious failure of governance within News of the World, News International and News Corporation” (Lord Leveson).

James Murdoch’s “handling of the hacking had been both difficult to comprehend and ill-judged and repeatedly fell short of the exercise of responsibility to be expected of a chief executive and chairman (Ofcom) This company, News Corp, has not changed – it remains the same to this day. The same two men, father and son, are orchestrating this current bid.

In the past as owner of the Sun, Rupert Murdoch buys The Times and Sunday Times in 1981. Margaret Thatcher's government did not refer the bid to the regulator after a secret lunch between the two at Chequers. Rupert Murdoch becomes the biggest newspaper proprietor in the UK.

In 1986 Robert Maxwell seeks to buy Today and the same government referred the bid which was blocked. In 1987 when Rupert Murdoch wanted to buy Today, the government reversed its position.

In 1990 with a communications bill being passed with a new framework for television Mr Murdoch's new satellite company Sky was exempted. Later that year when he wanted to merge with BSB the deal was slipped through during a brief interregnum caused by the death of ITC and the birth of the IBA.

But we now face much graver danger. Rupert Murdoch with his association with Donald Trump, Breitbart, Steve Bannon and the increasingly rabid Fox News and the worrying death of truth and elevation of alternative interpretations (lies) should cause fear and alarm. We are aware of the style of management at Fox with the recent spate of accusations and resignations in a hasty attempt to clean the act up while the bid here is being considered.

We know that James Murdoch has an irrational hatred of the BBC and our beloved, popular national broadcaster would be under the severest threat from a rampant, fully owned Murdoch BskyB. This is a crossroads...if the wrong turning is taken here it could affect not only broadcasting but our future national life which could be coarsened and reduced.

I know that you are seeing many people and hearing many voices: Wendy Walsh, representing women from Fox after serious harassment allegations (Murdoch: "not worried about sexual harassment") and James Murdoch and you must be receiving many letters. I hope this one may be taken into account as I know this view is shared by many worried, anxious people.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Benson