

FAO: Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Our Ref: IG/AJM

25th July 2017

By email: Karen.bradley.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: 21st Century Fox's bid for Sky

We write on behalf of our client the global citizens charity Avaaz, with regard to your pre recess oral update to Parliament on the 20th June . We were heartened by your confirmation to the House, that you are "still minded-to refer on the media plurality ground and still minded-not-to accept the undertakings in lieu of a reference".

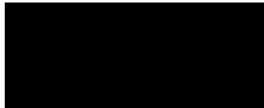
We are very concerned however, that you may have felt pressured by the letter of July 17 from 21st Century Fox urging you to make your final decision 'in the coming days'. We note that you expressly stated, that you may make your final decision on referral-including in respect of the broadcasting standard ground – "potentially during the summer recess".

It is clear from the evidence submitted to you that the extraordinary disregard the Murdochs have had for both their own commitments to regulators and for politicians internationally, warranted the extension of time given to gather evidence. In these circumstances, a final decision not to refer on either grounds that is not followed by an immediate full and open Parliamentary process, would we suggest, send a strong signal that the public interest was being blithely set side, in favour of an easier passage through for Fox News. Their letter of July 17th attempting to push you into making a decision during the recess is exactly



the kind of tactic to be expected in order to avoid further scrutiny and opposition to their bid, and would we suggest, seriously undermine the public confidence in the Government. Accordingly, we will respond immediately and robustly to any decision not to refer on either grounds being made during the recess.

Yours faithfully,



Copy to Sky Fox merger

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Copy to Sharon White, CEO, Ofcom

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Chief Executive

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