

38 Degrees
40 Bowling Green Lane
London, UK
EC1R 0NE

To: Karen Bradley MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

Please accept this petition, signed by 314,634 38 Degrees members from across the UK.

38 Degrees has serious concerns about the proposed merger between 21st Century Fox and Sky. Therefore, thousands of British people are asking Karen Bradley to ensure the deal is referred to Ofcom on the grounds of plurality and fitness and propriety:

Plurality:

21st Century Fox's proposed merger would result in further media concentration and would dilute media plurality. [1]

Fitness and propriety:

In 2012, Ofcom carried out a fit and proper person test of Sky in light of allegations of phone hacking and criminal activity at News of the World. Their ensuing report was extremely critical of James Murdoch, concluding, "*His conduct ... repeatedly fell short of the exercise of responsibility to be expected of him as CEO and chairman.*" [2]

As James Murdoch is the CEO of 21st Century Fox and Chairman of Sky, a burden should be placed on him and Sky to ensure he is a fit and proper person to run Sky.

The Secretary of State's powers to refer:

Legal advice provided by George Peretz QC has indicated that under the Enterprise Act (2002), the Secretary of State has the power to refer the deal on more than one grounds of public interest which can include the grounds referred to above.

In light of the significant impact the proposed takeover would have on Sky and the British media landscape, the British people are asking the Secretary of State to ensure the bid is referred on the public interest grounds of fitness and propriety and media plurality.

The enclosed file contains the petition signatures and is password protected for data protection reasons. To view all the signatures, please email ***** or call ***** to request the password.

Yours sincerely,

***** ****

38 Degrees
Campaigner

Notes:

[1] Justin Scholsberg: Consolidating Control: The Fox/Sky merger and news plurality in the UK:

<http://www.mediareform.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/plurality-review-FINAL-4.pdf>

[2] Ofcom, Decision under section 3(3) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 and section 3(3) of the Broadcasting Act 1996: Licences held by British Sky Broadcasting Limited, 20 September 2012, para 34. Available at:

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/32485/bskyb-final.pdf

[3] Legal advice re: RE: ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOX, INC ("21CF") OF THE ENTIRE ISSUED AND TO BE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL OF SKY PLC ("SKY"): PROPOSED EUROPEAN INTERVENTION NOTICE

<https://goo.gl/311nAk>