

Ms. Anne Lambert, Fox/Sky merger Inquiry Chair  
Competition and Markets Authority  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
London WC1B 4AD

25th April 2018

Dear Ms. Lambert,

I'm writing from the global campaign group Avaaz with a short note to aid you in producing your final findings on 21C Fox's bid for Sky. This supplements our submission of 13th February.

In its interim findings, your CMA panel noted that "Fox News attracted more breaches than any other Fox channels broadcast in the UK and is responsible for 62.5% of Fox's total breaches."<sup>1</sup> Yet you found that Fox as a whole has a genuine commitment to UK broadcasting standards.

Fox News' breaches are no accident, they form part of a clear pattern. And this pattern was clearly described in March by Col. Ralph Peters, a military general who appeared regularly as a commentator on Fox News for almost 10 years. He resigned from the network and sent his bosses at Fox News a resignation memo<sup>2</sup> which stated:

Today, I feel that Fox News is assaulting our constitutional order and the rule of law, while fostering corrosive and unjustified paranoia among viewers. Over my decade with Fox, I long was proud of the association. Now I am ashamed. In my view, Fox has degenerated from providing a legitimate and much-needed outlet for conservative voices to a mere propaganda machine for a destructive and ethically ruinous administration. When prime-time hosts--who have never served our country in any capacity--dismiss facts and empirical reality to launch profoundly dishonest assaults on the FBI, the Justice Department, the courts, the intelligence community (in which I served) and, not least, a model public servant and genuine war hero such as Robert Mueller--all the while scaremongering with lurid warnings of "deep-state" machinations--I cannot be part of the same organization, even at a remove. To me, Fox News is now wittingly harming our system of government for profit.

This is important further evidence of Fox News' dangerously partisan approach to broadcasting standards. We urge your panel to reconsider your interim conclusion on broadcasting standards to ensure our broadcasting regime is not undermined in the eyes of UK citizens and parliamentarians, and the world.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Wilks  
Campaign Director

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<sup>1</sup> CMA Provisional Findings - Para. 14.65, Pg. 254.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.buzzfeed.com/tomnamako/ralph-peters?utm\\_term=.pcOe1GzY1#.ft22BaEVB](https://www.buzzfeed.com/tomnamako/ralph-peters?utm_term=.pcOe1GzY1#.ft22BaEVB)