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Statement by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport

BSkyB Takeover

Mr Tom Watson (West Bromwich East) (Lab): The Government could have asked Ofcom to report on News International's commitment to broadcasting standards. I now believe that evidence exists showing that journalists currently employed on *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* were involved in phone hacking, and that damaging revelations were printed in *The Sun* from information possibly collected by illegal hacking. We are told that the BBC has been bullied into delaying the broadcast of an edition of "Panorama" showing more sinister forms of illegal surveillance. If the Metropolitan police show the Secretary of State that evidence, will he change his mind?

Mr Hunt: First, the issue of phone hacking is extremely serious and very important, and someone has been sent to prison for it, but there is a judicial process and it is not appropriate for me to involve myself in it. As to whether I can ask Ofcom to examine those issues, my understanding is that legally, I am not able to do that at this stage.