

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

21 June 2011

Dear Jeremy,

As you know, NewsCorp is the ultimate owner of the News of the World, The Sun, The Times and the Sunday Times. It also owns 39% of BSkyB. It is registered in Delaware, USA under whose laws the list of shareholders is not available to the public.

No doubt you share my view that it is ironic, to say the least, that an organisation whose newspapers are so keen to reveal the private lives of individuals, should wish to conceal the names of its shareholders. However, this secrecy raises a more serious issue.

NewsCorp own some 37% of the British press. It is asking you to allow it to add to this the total ownership of one of Britain's largest television stations. Before considering this request, you presumably obtained NewsCorp's share register in order to ascertain the identities of the individuals who, should you grant NewsCorp's request, will be the ultimate owners of such a large proportion of the UK media.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to release to the British public the full list of NewsCorp shareholders, or require NewsCorp itself to do so.

The ownership of so large a proportion of the British media, a proportion which you may be about to increase, is a matter of great public interest as well as of great interest to the public. It should be made known without delay.

I look forward to a speedy and positive response.

Yours sincerely



Tom Watson
Member of Parliament for West Bromwich East