



Office of the
Advocate General
for Scotland

**LORD KEEN OF ELIE QC
ADVOCATE GENERAL FOR
SCOTLAND**

DOVER HOUSE
WHITEHALL
LONDON
SW1H 2AU

privateoffice@advocategeneral.gsi.gov.uk

020 7270 6713

Lord McNally
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

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Dear Tom,

FOX- SKY MERGER STATEMENT 29 JUNE 2017

Thank you for your contribution to yesterday's debate on the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sports statement regarding the Fox- Sky Merger.

I am writing to correct something I said during the debate. In response to your question, I gave a commitment that the Secretary of State would only make decisions in relation to the merger when the Parliament was in session. As you may expect, the timetable for future decisions by the Secretary of State in this matter are driven by an obligation to act promptly as part of the quasi-judicial process and whilst it is always desirable to make announcements when Parliament is sitting it may not be possible in every case.

The Secretary of State clarified this position during the debate in the Commons:

I am acutely aware of the parliamentary timetable. I hope that the date of 14 July will enable me to have enough time before the House rises to come back to the House with any further updates. I will endeavour, as I have throughout the process, to ensure that the House is updated before anybody else.

I apologise for having caused some confusion on this point. I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the House of Lords library. I am also copying this letter to all Peers who spoke in the debate.

Yours sincerely,

LORD KEEN OF ELIE QC