

13 April 2018

[REDACTED]  
Head of Media Markets, Infrastructure & Technology  
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
DCMS Media Team  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

Angus Coulter  
Partner  
angus.coulter@hoganlovells.com  
D 020 7296 2965

Our ref 8737269

By email

Dear [REDACTED]

**ACQUISITION BY TRINITY MIRROR PLC ("TRINITY MIRROR") OF PUBLISHING ASSETS OF NORTHERN AND SHELL MEDIA GROUP LIMITED ("NORTHERN AND SHELL")**

This letter is a response to your letter of 11 April sent by email to Simon Fox, Chief Executive of Trinity Mirror plc. Thank you for your update on the Secretary of State's consideration of this transaction.

We attach a separate paper which addresses the specific points which you have raised in your letter, including the extracted relevant parts of prior documents in this transaction (including submissions to the Competition and Markets Authority) dealing with these questions.

You may be aware that Simon wrote to the Secretary of State on 9 February 2018, at the time of the announcement of the then-anticipated transaction. In that email Simon sought to assure the Secretary of State that the existing Trinity Mirror titles and those which it has acquired will maintain their editorial independence. We have attached a copy of that letter for your ease of reference.

Trinity Mirror continues to stand behind the points made in the 9 February 2018 letter. It remains utterly committed to the accurate presentation of news, the free expression of opinion and a plurality of voices in its own newspapers as well as in newspapers more generally across the United Kingdom. This commitment is a matter both of ethics and of sound business sense.

We consider that it would be extremely useful for Trinity Mirror to be able to express its views and to answer any questions in person. We would suggest that a face-to-face meeting at the earliest opportunity would be a very useful input to the Secretary of State's decision-making process in this matter.

Ideally, we would suggest that this meeting is with the Secretary of State himself. Simon and Lloyd Embley (the Trinity Mirror group editor-in-chief) would be very happy to attend such a meeting at a time which would suit the Secretary of State. David Grigson (the chair of the Trinity Mirror board) would also be available if that would be helpful to explain the key role of the Trinity Mirror board in ensuring quality and independent journalism.

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Alternatively or in addition, Trinity Mirror and we would be very happy to meet with you and anyone else in your team at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

We note the short deadline set out in the guidance. We are willing to do all that is necessary to assist the Secretary of State with coming to a reasoned decision within that period. With this in mind, could I suggest that we have a telephone call today or on Monday to discuss a possible meeting?

Please would you address any further correspondence in this matter to Hogan Lovells, copying the team included on the email to which this letter is attached. Please do feel free to get in contact with us on any of the points above or on the attached paper.

Yours sincerely

Angus Coulter