

# The Culture Secretary must now ensure MPs are given an opportunity to debate the Fox takeover deal – Tom Watson

**Tom**

**Watson, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport,**  
commenting on the 21<sup>st</sup>

Century Fox formal notification of its bid for full control of Sky, said:

“The Government should have referred this bid to  
Ofcom immediately and without equivocation.

“It is clear that Fox's bid to take full control of  
Sky will significantly increase the size of the biggest media organisation in  
the UK and further concentrate power in the hands of a dominant industry  
player.

“It is therefore clearly in the  
public interest that the bid is referred to the regulator on media plurality  
and broadcasting grounds.

“In light of the Government's decision not to immediately  
refer the bid and the effect the proposed merger is likely to have on the UK  
media sector, the Culture Secretary must now ensure MPs are given an  
opportunity to debate the deal before a decision is taken on whether to  
approve  
it.”

Ends