

**John Smith**  
**Member of Parliament (Lab) for Walsall**

12 July 2005

The Chairman  
Notional Competition Authority

Dear Sir,

I am writing in connection with the Notional Competition Authority's investigation into the proposed mergers of British Media and Press Holdings and Cable World respectively.

For good order's sake I ought to disclose that I have a part-time consultancy agreement with the *Union of Black Country Journalists*.

In view of the declining levels of readership in the Black Country area in general and the town of Walsall in particular, it is important that the proposed merger between the Courier Group and the Black Country Press be approved. This will ensure a unified voice for the Black Country in an increasingly globalised world. In addition it will guarantee sustained levels of employment going forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Kind regards,

John Smith, MP