

5 February 2013

GRUPO TELEVISA S.A.B
(a company incorporated under the laws of Mexico)

- and -

GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LIMITED

Televisa is the largest media company in the Spanish-speaking world (based on market capitalization) and is a major player in the international entertainment business. The group's activities include television and radio broadcasting (terrestrial, cable and satellite), as well as the production and international distribution of television programmes, feature films, and magazines. In fact, Televisa is the world's leading producer of Spanish-language programming for television. Additionally, as Mexico's leading broadcast company, Televisa operates four national free-to-air television channels.

The Guardian is one of Britain's leading serious newspapers, and also enjoys a significant international readership via its online editions at www.guardian.co.uk and www.guardiannews.com. It is the world's fifth most read newspaper website and has a global reputation for its investigative reporting and international news coverage.

Beginning on 7 June 2012, in the run-up to the hotly contested presidential elections in Mexico scheduled for the following month, the Guardian published a sequence of articles focussing on damaging allegations against Televisa stemming from documents provided by a confidential source in Mexico.

From the outset, the Guardian accepted that it was not possible to verify beyond doubt the authenticity of the documents in question. One of these documents had been published by a Mexican journalist in 2005. The authenticity of that document was called into question by some sections of the Mexican press and was publicly denied by Televisa.

Notwithstanding, the Guardian believed that its articles based on these documents raised a serious matter of legitimate public concern concerning the relationship between Televisa (as Mexico's leading TV and radio broadcaster) and some of the country's political candidates. The Guardian published these allegations in good faith based on the material provided by its confidential source.

In particular, the Guardian's articles raised (among other) suspicions that in 2005, Televisa had been guilty of editorial bias by selling favourable news coverage to certain political parties and candidates.

Given their timing, a matter of weeks before the 2012 presidential election, these allegations were widely reported - and generated considerable controversy - in Mexico. The allegations of political bias raised by the Guardian were referred to IFE (Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute) as part of a much wider legal complaint instigated by the PRD, the party of one of the main presidential candidates.

From the outset, Televisa has publicly and categorically denied the allegations of political bias. It also denies the authenticity of the documents provided to the Guardian. In the circumstances, Televisa felt it was left with no option but to make a formal legal complaint to the Guardian.

On 16 August 2012 the IFE rejected the PRD's complaint. An appeal against the IFE's ruling on the PRD complaint was subsequently rejected by Mexico's Federal Electoral Court on 28 August 2012. The Guardian acknowledges that both the IFE and the Federal Electoral Court found that the PRD's allegations of political bias in Televisa coverage between 2005 and 2012 were unsubstantiated.

The Guardian accepts Televisa's concerns that its coverage has been construed in many quarters (particularly in Mexico) to imply that Televisa was guilty of the suspected misconduct. It was not the Guardian's intention to suggest that these documents constituted conclusive proof of political bias on the part of Televisa. The Guardian appreciates that Televisa and its journalists seek to maintain the highest editorial standards and understands that its coverage caused significant upset.

The Guardian acknowledges that Televisa's political news coverage has been found by Mexico's Federal Electoral Court to comply with the country's strict broadcasting regulations on political impartiality. The Guardian is accordingly happy to clarify any unintended misunderstanding.

The Guardian and Televisa have amicably agreed to resolve their differences on the basis of this agreed statement.