AGGREGATES, CEMENT AND READY-MIX CONCRETE MARKET INVESTIGATION

Disclosures of interest

Member disclosures

31 January 2012

Tom Hoehn acted for Lafarge in 2002 in connection with a European Commission Article 101 investigation concerning the plasterboard market in the UK and Germany.

Malcolm Nicholson was a partner at Slaughter and May until 30 April 2009. Whilst at Slaughter and May, he advised Anglo American plc when it acquired Tarmac in 2000, he advised Hanson when it acquired Pioneer International in 1999 and he advised Rugby Portland Cement on competition matters in the 1990s.

There are no outside interests to declare for Martin Cave, Roger Davis and Phil Evans.

Staff disclosures

5 September 2013

The CC has approached a cement industry specialist, Kevin Rudd (a former employee of Blue Circle Cement between 1995 and 2002), now a partner of ICC consultants, to provide consultancy support to the inquiry. Mr Rudd may also consult with other ICC specialists for defined technical issues if the requirement arises and further notices will be made on this website if this is required. As a consultant at Atkins previously, Mr Rudd has provided technical consultancy support to a number of the parties to the inquiry on a number of occasions including to Lafarge on a number of assignments between 2002 and 2012, and to Quinn Cement in 2012 and Anglo American in 2002 to 2003. He has also provided some technical support services to Hope Construction Materials earlier this year.

The consultancy is to provide support and assistance in the estimation of the cost of procuring and building a new 1 mega tonne a year clinker plant on a brownfield site. Advice will be sought on factors that would point to a higher estimate and factors that would point to a lower estimate, economies of scale, likely asset lives, impact of location on plant-specific margins and how best to take account of any differences in the range of assets operated at a plant. This advice will assist with our cement profitability analysis.

The CC is satisfied that these past connections and his work on them will not affect his independence or the independence and integrity of its inquiry.

The CC has also approached another cement industry specialist, David Baird, to provide consultancy support to the inquiry, working with Kevin Rudd for specific and defined technical issues of the cement-making process. Between 1979 and 2002 Mr Baird was an employee of Blue Circle Industries, which after 2001 became part of Lafarge, from which he now receives a pension and in which he holds some shares; between 2002 and 2013 Mr Baird was a process design specialist for Atkins and supported as a consultant at Cement Performance International; from 1998 to 2005 he worked on Lafarge’s Medway works project; thereafter he provided consultancy support to Tarmac and to Quinn Cement on particular projects. Mr Baird is now a senior specialist of ICC consultants and has also recently provided technical support services to Hope Construction Materials.
The consultancy is to provide support and assistance in the estimation of the cost of procuring and building a new 1 mega tonne a year clinker plant on a brownfield site. Advice will be sought on factors that would point to a higher estimate and factors that would point to a lower estimate, economies of scale, likely asset lives, impact of location on plant-specific margins and how best to take account of any differences in the range of assets operated at a plant. This advice will assist with our cement profitability analysis.

The CC is satisfied that these past connections and his work on them will not affect his independence or the independence and integrity of its inquiry.

20 September 2012

Paul Tew, an economic adviser, worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers from August 2011 until August 2012. As such he had no involvement in advising the main parties to this market investigation or any other relevant party.

The CC does not believe that these matters will prejudice the ability of the Group or its staff to discharge its functions in an independent and impartial manner.