

AGGREGATES, CEMENT AND READY-MIX CONCRETE MARKET INVESTIGATION

Notice of Competition Commission's intention to open a data room to allow further review on items of analysis carried out by the Competition Commission in support of the aggregates, cement and ready-mix concrete market investigation

As part of its investigation, the Competition Commission (CC) has undertaken several detailed pieces of analysis, including:

- *A price-concentration analysis for aggregates.* A price-concentration analysis examines the relationship (if any) between the price for a good in an area and the strength of competition to supply that good in that area.
- *An entry and exit analysis for aggregates.* An entry-and-exit analysis examines how prices may change with the entry or exit of a competitor in a local area.

These analyses are partly based on data provided by a number of large aggregates, cement, and ready-mix concrete producers. The CC has published a summary relating to these analyses on 11 January.

The CC now proposes to open a data room to grant parties access to certain data and to consult on certain technical aspects of its analyses. The CC will be making available to the parties' specialist advisers the underlying data (some of which is confidential), and details of the CC's analyses (such as the 'do files' used in STATA, a specialist software). The data room will be open from 24 to 30 January, 9 am to 5 pm. Due to the sensitivity of the data and in line with usual data room procedures, the data room will only be open to parties' specialist advisers, such as economic consultants and not the parties or their staff themselves. A detailed protocol for using the data room will be sent in advance to those who express interest in using it and only advisers who have signed the CC confidentiality undertakings will be allowed access to the data room. Numbers of individuals allowed access to the data room are likely to have to be limited at any one time.

To make use of the data room, expressions of interest must be sent by 18 January at the very latest to the aggregates, cement and ready-mix concrete market investigation team at aggregates@cc.gsi.gov.uk.

11 January 2013