

**AGGREGATES, CEMENT AND READY-MIX CONCRETE
MARKET INVESTIGATION**

**Notice of acceptance of interim undertakings given by Hanson
under section 157 of the Enterprise Act 2002**

On 18 January 2012 the Office of Fair Trading made a reference to the Competition Commission (CC) under [section 131](#) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) concerning the supply or acquisition of aggregates, cement and ready-mix concrete in Great Britain (the Reference).

On 14 January 2014 the CC published its report on the Reference, entitled [Aggregates, cement and ready-mix concrete market investigation: Final report](#) (the Report), in which it concluded that:

- (a) a combination of structural and conduct features in the bulk and bagged cement markets in Great Britain (GB) gave rise to an adverse effect on competition (AEC) in those markets (the GB cement markets);
- (b) there were further features of the GB cement markets which combine to give rise to an AEC in the market for the supply of ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS) in GB, as well as to an additional AEC in the GB cement markets;
- (c) the likely effect of those features and resulting AECs is higher prices for cement and for GGBS than would otherwise be the case;
- (d) in order to address those AECs and the resulting customer detriments, remedies should be imposed under [section 138\(2\)](#) of the Act consisting, in particular, in the divestiture of a cement plant by Lafarge Tarmac and an active GGBS plant by Hanson, together with the right of the acquirer of the GGBS plant to obtain supplies of granulated blast furnace slag (GBS) or pellite and access to existing stockpiles of GBS or pellite; and
- (e) a monitoring trustee should be appointed as soon as reasonably practicable following the publication of the Report, for the purpose in particular of ensuring the protection of the divestiture package.

The Reference has not been finally determined in accordance with section 183(3) of the Act, and the CC wishes to prevent action being taken which might impede the taking of any action by the CC under section 138(2) of the Act. Hanson has therefore given to the CC the undertakings that are attached to this Notice (the Interim Undertakings).

The CC accepts the Interim Undertakings under section 157(2) of the Act, and the Interim Undertakings come into force accordingly.

(*signed*) MARTIN CAVE
Group Chairman
28 February 2014