

Disclosure of interest: Bucher Industries AG / Johnston Sweepers Limited

Paul Geroski, the Chairman of the CC, has asked Dr John Collings, one of the members of the CC, to join the group that will be conducting this investigation.

Dr Collings's wife is a senior employee of an international executive recruitment firm which serves clients across a wide range of industries. Within the last two years one of the firm's offices outside the UK has worked for the parent company of a manufacturer of street sweeping machines and vehicles which might be interested in competing to supply such machines in the UK in future. The firm's work for this company has not accounted for a significant proportion of its total fee income. Her own area of specialisation is outside the street sweeping machines and vehicles sector and none of her personal workload has been undertaken for clients involved in that sector.

The Commission is satisfied that Dr Collings' wife's current employment will not affect the inquiry.

The Chairman of the Group will be Mr Peter Freeman who was a partner at Simmons & Simmons until September 2003. Prior to this date Mr Freeman advised Cleanaway (a waste management organisation) in competition matters (mainly acquisitions) but not in relation to the purchasing of road sweeping equipment. Cleanaway is still an active client of Simmons & Simmons.

The Commission is satisfied that Mr Freeman's previous employment will not affect the inquiry.

21 April 2005

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Paul Geroski, the Chairman of the CC, has asked Professor David Parker, one of the members of the CC, to join the group that will be conducting this investigation.

Professor Parker has written the following papers on competitive tendering by local government. These are titled:

- o "The 1988 Local Government Act and Compulsory Competitive Tendering" (*Urban Studies*, Vol.27, No. 5, 1990 653-668); and
- o "Competitive Tendering: Issues and Evidence", co-written with Keith Hartley (*Public Money and Management*, Autumn 1990).

Neither the Commission nor Professor Parker believes that the work described above will prejudice the ability of the Group to discharge its functions in an independent and impartial manner.

Emily Robinson, accounting adviser to the inquiry, worked for AssetCo Ltd between April 2003 and April 2004 as a corporate finance executive. In 2001, AssetCo Ltd acquired Jack Allen Ltd, which was the UK distributor for Bucher Industries AG from October 1996 until the

termination of the distribution agreement on 7 November 2003. Ms. Robinson had no involvement in the arrangements made by AssetCo Ltd to act as Bucher's UK distributor, and she had no involvement in any aspect of the activities of AssetCo Ltd (such as sales, marketing, repairs of sweepers etc.) which it carried out pursuant to its distribution agreement with Bucher.

Neither the Commission nor Ms. Robinson believes that the matter disclosed above in relation to Ms. Robinson will affect her ability to advise the Group.

27 April 2005