

8 April 2015

Anticipated acquisition by Muller UK & Ireland Group LLP of the dairy operations of Dairy Crest Group plc

Termination of extension of the preliminary assessment period mentioned in section 34A(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) published pursuant to section 107(1)(ae) of the Act

On 20 March the European Commission (EC) referred the whole of the anticipated acquisition by Muller UK & Ireland Group LLP (Muller) of the dairy operations of Dairy Crest Group plc (Dairy Crest) (the Merger) to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) under Article 4(4) of the EC Merger Regulation. Therefore, the preliminary assessment period for the CMA to decide whether to refer the Merger for a phase 2 investigation has commenced under section 34A(2) and (4) of the Act.

On 24 March and 27 March the CMA published notices to extend the preliminary assessment period because Muller and Dairy Crest had not complied with requirements set out in notices sent to each of them under section 109 of the Act (the Notices) to provide certain information and documents.

The CMA is now satisfied for the purposes of section 34A(6A) of the Act that the information and documents have been provided as required by the Notices. The extension has now ended, and eight working days will be added to the preliminary assessment period. This means that the end of the preliminary assessment period is now 12 June 2015.