

Anticipated acquisition by Inter City Railways Limited (ICRL) of the InterCity East Coast Franchise

Notice of extension of the period mentioned in section 73A(3) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) published pursuant to section 107(1)(eb) of the Act

On 20 February 2015 the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) gave notice under section 73A(2)(b) of the Act that it was considering whether to accept the undertaking offered by Stagecoach Group plc (Stagecoach).

Pursuant to section 73A(3) of the Act the CMA has until 21 April 2015 to decide whether to accept this undertaking. The CMA considers that this period should be extended under section 73A(4) of the Act, because it was not possible to reach a decision on acceptance of the undertaking by 21 April 2015. The reason for this is that the CMA received comments in response to its consultation on Stagecoach's proposed undertaking and it may be necessary for the CMA to conduct a further consultation with interested third parties on a modified version of the undertaking. Accordingly, the CMA considers that there are special reasons for this extension. The CMA also considers that this extension does not increase the risk of an anti-competitive outcome from the merger and that there is a significant likelihood that it will be able to accept the undertaking before the end of the extended period.

This extension comes into force on the date of publication of this notice. The extension ends on 18 June 2015.