

Anticipated acquisition of W. Corbett & Co (Galvanizing) Limited by Joseph Ash Limited

Notice of cancellation of terms of reference

1. On 23 July 2015, the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) cancelled the merger reference in respect of arrangements in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, would have resulted in Joseph Ash Limited ceasing to be distinct from enterprises carried on by W. Corbett & Co (Galvanizing) Limited.
2. The reference to a phase 2 inquiry group was made by the CMA on 9 July 2015 under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**).
3. Further to the terms of reference, and in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act, the Inquiry group was required to decide:
 - (a) whether arrangements were in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, would have resulted in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
 - (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation may have been expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK for goods or services.
4. The CMA has received assurances from Joseph Ash Limited and from its parent company, Hill & Smith Holdings PLC, that the arrangements in question have been abandoned.
5. The CMA, having had regard to those assurances, is satisfied that Joseph Ash Limited and Hill & Smith Holdings PLC have, within the terms of section 37(1) of the Act, abandoned the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in the reference and has consequently cancelled the reference.
6. This cancellation is published in accordance with requirements laid down by sections 107(2)(a) and 107(4) of the Act.

Roger Witcomb
CMA Panel Chair
24 July 2015