

ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY BT GROUP PLC OF EE LIMITED

Notice of extension of the inquiry statutory period pursuant to section 107(2)(c) of the Enterprise Act 2002

On 9 June 2015, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred the anticipated acquisition by BT Group plc of EE Limited for further investigation and report by a group of CMA panel members (the inquiry group).

The period within which the report was due to be prepared and published (the reference period) was due to expire on 23 November 2015.

The inquiry group has decided that the reference period should be extended by eight weeks under section 39(3) of the Act for the reasons set out in the paragraph below. The revised reference period will expire on 18 January 2016.

In taking this decision, the inquiry group has had regard to the scope and complexity of the investigation and the additional information gathering and work required to develop the analyses and consider issues raised by the parties' and third parties' submissions. In addition, the inquiry group has had regard to the extent of submissions made to the CMA in respect of the investigation following publication of the issues statement and (more recently) the provision of new information after the main party hearings. As a result, an extension is necessary to allow sufficient time to take full and proper account of submissions and the results of the CMA's extensive investigation to reach fully reasoned provisional and final decisions.

In light of the above, the inquiry group is of the view that there are special reasons for extending the reference period.