

MARKET STUDY INTO THE SUPPLY OF LEGAL SERVICES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Notice of decision not to make a market investigation reference under section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002

The Competition and Markets Authority (referred to in this notice as ‘the CMA’) publishes this notice in accordance with section 131B(3) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (‘the Act’).

1. On 13 January 2016 the CMA published a market study notice, in accordance with section 130A of the Act, that the CMA proposed to carry out its functions under section 5 of the Act in relation to the supply of Legal Services in England and Wales, to consider the extent to which a matter in relation to the supply of those services has or may have effects adverse to the interests of consumers, and to assess the extent to which steps can and should be taken to remedy, mitigate or prevent any such adverse effects.
2. The CMA provided details of the market study, including detailed issues on which the CMA welcomed responses in writing, in a statement of scope document annexed to the market study notice.
3. The market study notice invited any persons wishing to make representations, including on whether the CMA should make a market investigation reference under section 131 of the Act, to do so in writing no later than 3 February 2016.
4. No representations were made to the CMA, within the specified period, to the effect that a reference under section 131 of the Act should be made in relation to the matters specified in the market study notice.
5. The CMA has decided not to make a reference under section 131 of the Act in relation to the supply of Legal Services in England and Wales as set out in its interim report dated 8 July 2016.

8 July 2016

Competition and Markets Authority

Notes

- (i) Where the CMA has published a market study notice, but has received no representations within the period specified in the notice to the effect that a market investigation reference should be made, and has decided not to make a reference, it is required by section 131B(3) of the Act to publish notice of its decision not to make a reference. This notice must be published within 6 months of the date on which the CMA published its market study notice, Paragraph 5 of the market study notice specified that notice of such a decision would be published no later than 12 July 2016.
- (ii) For the avoidance of doubt, the CMA has no duty under section 131B of the Act to consult interested parties before making its decision, and the CMA is not inviting comments on its decision.