

7 November 2016

**ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY MASTERCARD UK HOLDCO
LIMITED OF VOCALINK HOLDINGS LIMITED**

**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 17 October 2016 the European Commission referred the whole of the anticipated acquisition by Mastercard UK Holdco Limited, an affiliate of Mastercard International Incorporated, of VocaLink Holdings Limited (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 27 October the CMA published a notice to extend the preliminary assessment period because VocaLink Holdings Limited had not complied with a requirement set out in a notice under section 109 of the Act (the **Notice**) to provide certain information and documents by 4.30 pm on 26 October 2016.

The CMA has decided to cancel the extension in accordance with section 34A(6A)(b) of the Act. This means that the end of the preliminary assessment period is now 4 January 2017.