

Notice of intention to release undertakings given by Badgerline Holdings Limited pursuant to section 88 of the Fair Trading Act 1973

1. In October 1989, the Secretary of State accepted undertakings from Badgerline Holdings Ltd (Badgerline) (now FirstGroup plc) following an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) into Badgerline's acquisition of Midland Red West Holdings Ltd. The MMC's report on the investigation was published in March 1989.¹ The undertakings were amended in February 1996.
2. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has a statutory duty to keep under review undertakings given under the Fair Trading Act 1973.² On 30 January 2017, the CMA announced its intention to review the undertakings given by FirstGroup plc.
3. On 9 June 2017, the CMA published its report entitled *Review of FirstGroup bus undertakings in Bristol – Provisional decision*. For the reasons given in that report, the CMA has provisionally concluded that FirstGroup plc should be released from the undertakings.
4. The CMA now gives notice of its intention to release FirstGroup plc from the undertakings.
5. Any representation in relation to the proposed release of the undertakings should be made by 30 June 2017 and sent to:

remedies.reviews@cma.gsi.gov.uk

or

Phil James
Competition and Markets Authority
Victoria House
6th Floor East

¹ MMC Report: Badgerline Holdings Ltd and Midland Red West Holdings Ltd: a report on the acquisition by Badgerline Holdings Limited of Midland Red West Holdings Limited; Cm 595, 8 March 1989.

² Sections 88(4) and (5) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (as preserved in Schedule 24 to the Enterprise Act 2002)

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Simon Polito

Group Chairman

9 June 2017