

REFERENCE RELATING TO THE COMPLETED ACQUISITION BY EURO CAR PARTS LIMITED OF ASSETS OF THE ANDREW PAGE BUSINESS

Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 11.3 of the Competition and Markets Authority Rules of Procedure¹

1. On 22 May 2017, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), in accordance with section 22 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred²the completed acquisition by Euro Car Parts Limited (ECP) of certain assets of Andrew Page Limited, Solid Auto (U.K.) Limited and Colton Parts Company Limited (collectively AP) for further investigation and report by a group of CMA panel members (the Inquiry Group).

Provisional findings

2. The Inquiry Group appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 35(1) of the Act:
 - (a) the completed acquisition by ECP of assets of the AP business has resulted in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
 - (b) the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition in the supply of independent aftermarket car parts to local independent motor trade customers in the local areas set out below, and that this may be expected to lead to adverse effects for customers in terms of an increase in prices and/or a reduction in the quality of service in those ten local areas.
 - (i) Blackpool
 - (ii) Brighton

¹ See [Rules of procedure for merger, market and special reference groups: CMA17](#).

² Under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013.

- (iii) Gloucester
- (iv) Liphook
- (v) Scunthorpe
- (vi) Sunderland
- (vii) Swindon
- (viii) Wakefield
- (ix) Worthing
- (x) York

3. The Inquiry Group's provisional findings and its reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which will be published on the CMA website shortly, and are summarized in the summary of the provisional findings report (see note below).

The next steps

4. Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is now invited to provide the Inquiry Group with their reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or should be varied).
5. These reasons should be received by the Project Manager no later than 5 pm on 5 October 2017.
6. The Inquiry Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.
7. A notice of possible remedies will be published shortly on the CMA website. This will set out the actions which the Inquiry Group considers might be taken by the CMA to remedy the substantial lessening of competition, and resultant adverse effects, provisionally identified.

[Signed]

Alasdair Smith

Inquiry Group Chair

14 September 2017

Note: A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CMA website on 14 September 2017. The CMA proposes to publish

the provisional findings report on its website by 15 September 2017. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Inquiry Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act. These omissions are indicated by [✂].

Comments should be made by email to EuroCarParts/AndrewPage@cma.gsi.gov.uk or in writing to:

Project Manager
Euro Car Parts/Andrew Page merger inquiry
Competition and Markets Authority
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD