

## REFERENCE RELATING TO THE ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY 21ST CENTURY FOX, INC OF SKY PLC

### Notice of extension of inquiry period under Article 9(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003 (the Order)<sup>1</sup>

1. On 20 September 2017, the then Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (the **Secretary of State**), in exercise of her powers under article 5(3) of the Order, made a reference to the Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) for the constitution of a group of CMA Panel Members (the **Inquiry Group**) regarding the anticipated acquisition by 21st Century Fox, Inc of the shares of Sky Plc that it does not already own (the **Reference**). The Reference required the Inquiry Group to report on the questions set out in articles 6(2), (3) and (4) of the Order within the period provided in article 9 of the Order (the reference period). The reference period was due to expire on 6 March 2018.
2. On 23 January 2018, the Inquiry Group published its provisional findings on the Reference and a notice of possible remedies.
3. The Inquiry Group has decided, pursuant to article 9(2) of the Order, that the reference period should be extended by eight weeks for the reasons set out in the paragraph below. The revised reference period will expire on 1 May 2018.
4. In taking this decision, the Inquiry Group had regard to the exceptional volume of substantive submissions, the need to hold a large number of hearings and the novelty and complexity of the investigation required to address the statutory questions the Inquiry Group is required to report on. The Inquiry Group considers that these amount to special reasons that mean that its final report cannot be prepared and given to the Secretary of State within the original reference period.

Anne Lambert  
Inquiry Group Chair  
23 January 2018

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<sup>1</sup> Published pursuant to Article 14(1)(b) of the Order.