

Anticipated merger between J Sainsbury Plc and Asda Group Ltd

Preliminary invitation to comment

On 30 April 2018, J Sainsbury PLC (**Sainsbury's**) and ASDA Group Limited (**ASDA** and, together with Sainsbury's, the **Parties**) announced that they have entered into an agreement to combine their operations (the **Proposed Merger**).

The Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) will be considering whether it is or may be the case that the Proposed Merger, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation under the merger provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 and, if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom (**UK**) for goods or services.

The CMA is keen to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity to make their views known and present all relevant evidence to the CMA. The CMA is therefore issuing this preliminary 'invitation to comment' asking all interested parties to submit to the CMA any initial views on the impact that the proposed merger could have on competition in the UK. Any such views should be provided to sainsburysasda@cma.gsi.gov.uk by no later than 5pm on Monday 4 June 2018.

This invitation to comment is the first part of the CMA's information-gathering process, in advance of the CMA's formal investigation starting. The CMA is also likely to proactively contact companies and organisations that are active in the markets affected by the Proposed Merger, or have valuable insights or evidence that could assist the CMA's investigation, such as suppliers, competitors, industry bodies and consumer organisations.

Further opportunities to engage with the CMA's investigation are likely to be provided by a consumer survey (to engage directly with the customers) and by a series of hearings and roundtable meetings with interested third parties.

All updates on significant case developments will be available on the [CMA case page](#).

Your name and contact details are your personal data. In collecting, receiving, storing, accessing and using your personal data, the CMA, as controller, is processing your personal data. The CMA processes personal data in accordance with data protection law. The CMA is processing your personal data so that it can contact you again, should it need further help or information from you, in order to carry out its merger work under Part 3 of the Enterprise Act 2002. For more information about how the CMA processes personal data and your rights relating to that data, please see our [Privacy Notice](#).