

23 August 2018

Anticipated merger between J Sainsbury PLC and Asda Group Ltd

Notice under paragraph (b) of the definition of ‘initial period’ in section 34ZA(3) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) published pursuant to section 107(1)(ab) of the Act

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) hereby gives notice pursuant to paragraph (b) of the definition of ‘initial period’ in section 34ZA(3) of the Act that it has sufficient information in relation to the anticipated merger between J Sainsbury PLC and Asda Group Ltd (the **Merger**) to enable it to begin an investigation for the purposes of deciding whether to make a reference for a Phase 2 investigation.

The initial period defined in section 34ZA(3) of the Act in relation to the Merger will therefore commence on the first working day after the date of this notice, ie on 24 August 2018. The deadline for the CMA to announce its decision whether to refer the Merger for a Phase 2 investigation is therefore 19 October 2018.

The CMA notes that a request has been made for a fast-track reference. If this request is accepted, the announcement of the CMA’s decision will be sooner.