

REFERENCE RELATING TO THE ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY EXPERIAN PLC OF CREDIT LASER HOLDINGS LIMITED

Notice of extension of inquiry period under section 39(3) of the Enterprise Act 2002¹

1. On 31 July 2018, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred the anticipated acquisition by Experian plc of Credit Laser Holdings Limited to its Chair for the constitution of a Group of CMA Panel Members (the Inquiry Group). The period within which the report on this reference was to be prepared and published (the reference period) was due to expire on 14 January 2019.
2. On 28 November 2018, the Inquiry Group appointed to consider this reference published its provisional findings and a notice of possible remedies.
3. The Inquiry Group has decided that the reference period should be extended by eight weeks under section 39(3) of the Act as it considers there are special reasons (set out below) why the final report cannot be prepared and published within the reference period. The revised reference period will expire on 11 March 2019. However, the Inquiry Group aims to complete the inquiry as soon as possible and in advance of this date.
4. In taking this decision, the Inquiry Group had regard to the fact that material new evidence came to light at a late stage in the inquiry timetable which required further investigation; the need to allow sufficient time to take full account of representations received in response to the provisional findings; and the need to provide a fully reasoned decision within the statutory timeframe. The Inquiry Group considers that completion of its investigation and the publication of its final report will not be possible within the original reference period.

Roland Green

Inquiry Group Chair

28 November 2018

¹ Published pursuant to section 107(2)(c) of the Enterprise Act 2002