

## **Completed acquisition by Vanilla Group Limited of Washstation Limited**

### **Consent to certain actions for the purposes of the Initial Enforcement Order made by the Competition and Markets Authority ('CMA') on 13 December 2017**

On 13 December 2017 the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) issued an Initial Enforcement Order (the IEO) in accordance with section 72(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) in respect of the completed acquisition by JLA New Equityco Ltd (JLA) through its subsidiary Vanilla Group Limited (Vanilla) of Washstation Limited (the Merger).

The IEO provides that, except with the prior written consent of the CMA, Vanilla and JLA shall not take any action which might prejudice a reference under section 22 of the Act or impede the taking of any remedial action under the Act by the CMA which may be justified by the CMA's decisions on such a reference.

By an email dated 26 November 2018, JLA requested the CMA to grant a derogation to permit JLA to sell [X] to [X].

On the basis that:

- a) in the Final Report published on 11 October 2018, the CMA found that the Merger has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition in the supply of managed laundry services to higher education customers under vend share agreements in the UK;
- b) the proposed sale of [X] to [X] might not in the CMA's view impede the taking of remedial action by the CMA;

the CMA grants a derogation from paragraph 5(e) of the IEO to permit JLA to sell [X] to [X].

Stuart McIntosh  
Group Chair  
28 November 2018