

**REFERENCE RELATING TO THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY  
TOP ONLINE PARTNERS GROUP LIMITED OF MAPLE SYRUP  
GROUP LIMITED**

**Notice of extension of inquiry period under section 39(8A) of the  
Enterprise Act 2002<sup>1</sup>**

1. On 16 January 2019, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred the proposed acquisition by Top Online Partners Group Limited of Maple Syrup Group 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 under section 39(1) of the Act (the reference period) was due to expire on 2 July 2019.
2. On 17 January 2019, Top Online Partners Group Limited made a request to the CMA in accordance with section 39(8A) of the Act for a specified period of time to be disregarded for the purposes of determining the reference period, as there was a possibility of the arrangements which are the subject of the reference being abandoned.
3. The CMA considered the request and reasonably believes that the proposed arrangements might be abandoned.
4. Accordingly, the CMA has decided, pursuant to section 39(8A) of the Act, that a period of three weeks is to be disregarded for the purposes of determining the reference period and the reference period will therefore expire on 23 July 2019.



**Martin Coleman**  
*CMA Panel Chair*<sup>2</sup>  
17 January

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<sup>1</sup> Published pursuant to sections 39(8B) and 107(2)(c) of the Enterprise Act 2002

<sup>2</sup> Exercising powers under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, schedule 4, paragraph 48