

Anticipated acquisition by Experian Limited (Experian) of Credit Laser Holdings Limited (ClearScore)

Notice of cancellation of merger reference

1. On 27 February 2019, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) cancelled the reference concerning the proposed acquisition by Experian of ClearScore.
2. On 31 July 2018, a reference was made by the CMA to its Chair for the constitution of a Group of CMA Panel Members under section 33 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) in respect of arrangements in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, would have resulted in ClearScore ceasing to be distinct from enterprises carried on by Experian plc.
3. Further to the terms of reference, and in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act, the Inquiry Group was required to decide:
 - (a) whether arrangements were in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, would have resulted in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
 - (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation may have been expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK for goods or services.
4. The CMA has received written assurances from Experian and ClearScore that the proposed acquisition by Experian of ClearScore has been abandoned.
5. The CMA, having had regard to those assurances, is satisfied that Experian and ClearScore have, within the terms of section 37(1) of the Act, abandoned the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in the reference. The Inquiry Group has consequently cancelled the reference in accordance with its powers under section 37(1) of the Act.

6. This cancellation is published in accordance with requirements laid down by sections 107(2)(a) and 107(4) of the Act.

Roland Green

Inquiry Group Chair
27 February 2019