

Merger investigation into the completed acquisition by JLA New Equityco Limited through its subsidiary Vanilla Group Limited of Washstation Limited

Case closure summary

On 18 May 2017, JLA New Equityco Limited (**JLA**), acting through its subsidiary Vanilla Group Limited (**Vanilla**), acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Washstation Limited (**Washstation**) (the **Merger**).

A group of independent panel members (**the Group**) at the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) investigated the Merger and published its [Final Report](#) on 11 October 2018. In its Final Report, the Group concluded that the Merger has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition (**SLC**) in the market for the supply of managed laundry services to higher education customers under vend share agreements in the UK. The Group concluded that the divestiture of the business for the supply of managed laundry services to higher education customers under vend share agreements in the UK carried on by Washstation (**the Washstation Business**) would be an effective and proportionate remedy to the SLC and the adverse effects likely to arise from it.

On 13 December 2018, the CMA accepted [Final Undertakings](#) from JLA and Vanilla to sell the Washstation Business to a purchaser approved by the CMA. The purchase of the Washstation Business by Katy Mitchell and Solingen Private Equity was approved by the CMA and completed on 5 June 2019.

This brings the merger investigation to a close.

5 June 2019