



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

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[REDACTED]  
Group Legal Director  
DMGT

24 March 2020

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

**Daily Mail and General Trust plc (“DMGT”) acquisition of JPI Media Publications Limited (“the merger”)**

I refer to the letter sent to you by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 21 January 2020, which set out that the Secretary of State for the Department (“the Secretary of State”) had issued a public interest Intervention Notice (“PIIN”) under section 42 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (“the Act”) in relation to the merger.

As you are aware, the PIIN required the Competition and Markets Authority (“the CMA”) to report to the Secretary of State on jurisdictional and competition matters, and Ofcom to report on the following media public interest consideration: the need for, to the extent that it is reasonable and practicable, a sufficient plurality of views in newspapers in each market for newspapers in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom (‘plurality ground’).

Accordingly, the Secretary of State asked the Competition and Markets Authority and Ofcom to report to him, in accordance with sections 44 and 44A of the Act respectively, by midnight at the end of Friday 13 March 2020. Both reports were received by this date, and are enclosed alongside this letter. They will be published today on the gov.uk website.

The CMA’s report concluded that whilst the CMA believes that it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created, it does not believe that it is or may be the case that the merger has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition in any market. The Secretary of State is required by the Act to accept the CMA’s findings.



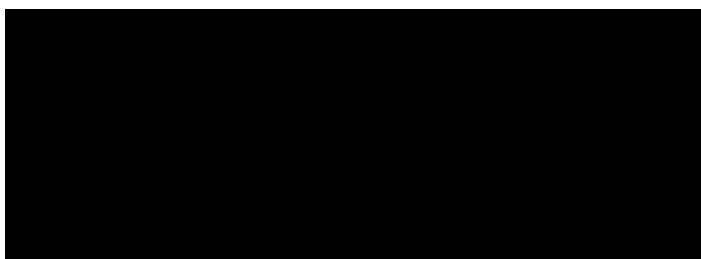
Ofcom's report concluded it did not expect the transaction to reduce the plurality of views provided across newspaper groups in the UK. The Secretary of State accepted Ofcom's assessment on both these considerations.

In light of this, the Secretary of State has decided that he will not refer the merger for a Phase 2 investigation on the ground that the media public interest consideration cited in the PIIN is relevant to a consideration of the merger.

The Secretary of State has therefore notified the CMA, in accordance with section 56(1) of the Act, to deal with the matter from a competition perspective. The Secretary of State will inform Parliament today of his decision through a Written Ministerial Statement.

I am copying this letter to DMGT's representatives at Slaughter and May.

Yours sincerely,



  
**Director, Media and Creative Industries**  
**Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport**