

Merger investigation into the completed acquisition by Hunter Douglas N.V. of convertible loan notes and certain rights in 247 Home Furnishings Ltd. in 2013 and the completed acquisition by Hunter Douglas N.V. of a controlling interest in 247 Home Furnishings Ltd. in 2019

Final Undertakings given by Hunter Douglas N.V. and 247 Home Furnishings Limited to the Competition and Markets Authority pursuant to section 82 of the Enterprise Act 2002

Background

- A. On 28 February 2019, Hunter Douglas N.V. (**'Hunter Douglas'**) completed its acquisition of a controlling interest in 247 Home Furnishings Ltd. (**'247'**) (the **'Merger'**).
- B. On 1 April 2020, the CMA, in accordance with section 22(1) of the Act, referred the Merger to a group of CMA panel members (**'the Group'**) to determine, pursuant to section 35 of the Act:
- (a) whether a relevant merger situation has been created; and
 - (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition (**'SLC'**) in any market or markets in the United Kingdom (**'UK'**) for goods or services.
- C. On 15 September 2020, the CMA published a final report pursuant to section 38 of the Act (the **'Report'**) which concluded that:
- (a) the Merger has created a relevant merger situation;
 - (b) the creation of that situation has resulted in, or may be expected to result, in an SLC in relation to the retail supply of online made to measure blinds in the UK; and
 - (c) the CMA should take action to remedy the SLC found and any resulting adverse effects.

- D. The Group concluded that the divestiture of 51% of the ordinary share capital of 247 by Hunter Douglas (the '**Divestment Package**') would be an effective and proportionate remedy to the SLC and the adverse effects likely to arise from it.
- E. On 7 December 2020, the CMA accepted Final Undertakings from Hunter Douglas to sell the Divestment Package to a purchaser approved by the CMA. The purchase of the Divestment Package by Cristobal Consulting Ltd was approved by the CMA and completed on 7 July 2021.
- F. This brings the merger investigation to a close.

7 July 2021