

Completed acquisition by Sony Music Entertainment of all of the issued shares of the entities comprising the AWAL and the Kobalt Neighbouring Rights businesses from Kobalt Music Group Limited

Notice of extension of inquiry period under section 39(4) of the Enterprise Act 2002¹

1. On 16 September 2021, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), in exercise of its duty under [section 22\(1\)](#) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred the completed acquisition by Sony Music Entertainment (SME), a subsidiary of Sony Group Corporation, of all of the issued shares of the entities comprising the AWAL business and the Kobalt Neighbouring Rights business from Kobalt Music Group Limited for further investigation and report by a group of CMA panel members (the Inquiry Group). The period within which the report on this reference is to be prepared and published (the reference period) is due to expire on 2 March 2022.
2. On 22 September 2021, the CMA issued a notice to Sony Group Corporation, SME and The Orchard, EU Limited (collectively, Sony) under [section 109](#) of the Act (the section 109 notice) requiring them to provide the documents and information specified in the section 109 notice by a specified date, subsequently extended to 2 November 2021.
3. The CMA considers that Sony (whether with or without a reasonable excuse) has failed to comply with the requirements of the section 109 notice.
4. On 3 November 2021, the Inquiry Group decided pursuant to [section 39\(4\)](#) of the Act that the reference period should be extended until Sony provides the documents and information to the satisfaction of the CMA, or the CMA publishes its decision to cancel the extension.
5. The extension to the reference period comes into force on the date of publication of this notice.

¹ Published pursuant to [section 107\(2\)\(c\)](#) of the Enterprise Act 2002.

(signed)

Margot Daly

Inquiry Group Chair

3 November 2021