

Anticipated acquisition by NortonLifeLock Inc. of Avast plc

Terms of reference

1. In exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**) the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) believes that it is or may be the case that:
 - (a) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation, in that:
 - (i) enterprises carried on by NortonLifeLock Inc. will cease to be distinct from enterprises carried on by Avast plc; and
 - (ii) the condition specified in section 23(2)(b) of the Act is satisfied
 - (b) the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within a market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.
2. Therefore, in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Act, the CMA hereby makes a reference to its chair for the constitution of a group under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 in order that the group may investigate and report, within a period ending on 8 September 2022, on the following questions in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act:
 - (a) whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
 - (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

David Stewart
Executive Director, Markets and Mergers
Competition and Markets Authority
25 March 2022