

## REFERENCE RELATING TO THE ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY NORTONLIFELOCK INC. OF AVAST PLC

### Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 11.3 of the Competition and Markets Authority Rules of Procedure<sup>1</sup>

1. On 25 March 2022, in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**), the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**), made a reference to its chair for the constitution of a Group of CMA Panel Members (the **Inquiry Group**)<sup>2</sup> regarding the anticipated acquisition by NortonLifeLock Inc. of Avast plc for further investigation and report and requiring it to report within a period ending 8 September 2022.

#### ***Provisional findings***

2. The Inquiry Group has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide, pursuant to section 36(1) of the Act:
  - (a) that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
  - (b) the creation of that situation may not be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition (**SLC**) within any market or markets in the United Kingdom.
3. The Inquiry Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which is attached to this notice, and are summarised in the summary of the provisional findings report (see note below).

#### ***The next steps***

4. Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is now invited to provide the Inquiry Group with their reasons in writing as to why these

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<sup>1</sup> See [Rules of procedure for merger, market and special reference groups: CMA17](#).

<sup>2</sup> Under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013.

provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).

5. These reasons should be received by the Principal Case Officer on behalf of the Inquiry Group no later than **17:00 on Wednesday 24 August 2022**.
6. The Inquiry Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and any consequential actions. The Inquiry Group shall not be obliged to take into account reasons which are provided after the deadline specified in paragraph 5 above.

Kirsten Baker  
*Inquiry Group Chair*  
3 August 2022

*Note:* A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the [CMA website](#) on 3 August 2022. The CMA proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its [website](#) shortly thereafter. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Inquiry Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act. These omissions are indicated by [✂].

Comments should be made by email to [Norton.Avast@cma.gov.uk](mailto:Norton.Avast@cma.gov.uk) and [AJ.lloenyosi@cma.gov.uk](mailto:AJ.lloenyosi@cma.gov.uk) or in writing to:

AJ lloenyosi  
Principal Case Officer  
Competition and Markets Authority  
The Cabot  
25 Cabot Square  
London  
E14 4QZ