

## **ACQUISITION BY EVILLE & JONES (GROUP) LIMITED, THROUGH EVILLE & JONES HOLDINGS LIMITED, OF VORENTA LIMITED**

### **Initial Enforcement Order made by the Competition and Markets Authority pursuant to section 72(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act)**

Whereas:

- (a) the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that Eville & Jones (Group) Limited (and all entities under common ownership or control, or over which it exerts material influence, or which exert material influence over it within the meaning of section 26 of the Enterprise Act 2002, including for the avoidance of doubt, Eville & Jones Holdings Limited, together (**E&J**)) and Vorenta Limited (and all its subsidiaries within the meaning given by section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006, together **Vorenta**) have ceased to be distinct;
- (b) the CMA is considering, pursuant to section 22 of the Act, whether it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created and whether the creation of that situation has resulted or may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in any market or markets in the United Kingdom (**UK**);
- (c) the CMA wishes to ensure that no action is taken pending final determination of any reference under section 22 of the Act which might prejudice that reference or impede the taking of any action by the CMA under Part 3 of the Act which might be justified by the CMA's decisions on the reference; and
- (d) the circumstances set out in section 72(6) of the Act do not apply and the reference has not been finally determined in accordance with section 79(1) of the Act.

Now for the purposes of preventing pre-emptive action in accordance with section 72(2) of the Act the CMA makes the following order addressed to E&J and Vorenta (the **Order**).

## **Commencement, application and scope**

1. This Order commences on the commencement date: 2 November 2022.
2. This Order applies to E&J and Vorenta.
3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Order, no act or omission shall constitute a breach of this Order, and nothing in this Order shall oblige E&J or Vorenta to reverse any act or omission, in each case to the extent that it occurred or was completed prior to the commencement date.

## **Management of the E&J and Vorenta businesses until determination of proceedings**

4. Except with the prior written consent of the CMA, E&J and Vorenta shall not, during the specified period, take any action which might prejudice a reference of the transaction under section 22 of the Act or impede the taking of any action under the Act by the CMA which may be justified by the CMA's decisions on such a reference, including any action which might:
  - (a) lead to the integration of the Vorenta business with the E&J business;
  - (b) transfer the ownership or control of the E&J business or the Vorenta business or any of their subsidiaries; or
  - (c) otherwise impair the ability of the Vorenta business or the E&J business to compete independently in any of the markets affected by the transaction.
5. Further and without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 4 and subject to paragraph 3, E&J and Vorenta shall at all times during the specified period take all necessary steps to ensure that, except with the prior written consent of the CMA:
  - (a) the Vorenta business is carried on separately from the E&J business and the Vorenta business' separate sales or brand identity is maintained;
  - (b) the Vorenta business and the E&J business are maintained as a going concern and sufficient resources are made available for the development of the Vorenta business and the E&J business, on the basis of their respective pre-merger business plans;

- (c) except in the ordinary course of business, no significant changes are made to the organisational structure of, or the management responsibilities within, the Vorenta business or the E&J business;
- (d) the nature, description, range and quality of services supplied in the UK by each of the two businesses are maintained and preserved;
- (e) except in the ordinary course of business through the separate operation of the two businesses:
  - (i) all of the assets of the Vorenta business and the E&J business are maintained and preserved, including facilities and goodwill;
  - (ii) none of the assets of the Vorenta business or the E&J business are disposed of; and
  - (iii) no interest in the assets of the Vorenta business or the E&J business is created or disposed of;
- (f) there is no integration of the information technology of the Vorenta or E&J businesses, and the software and hardware platforms of the Vorenta business shall remain essentially unchanged, except for routine changes and maintenance;
- (g) the customer and supplier lists of the two businesses shall be operated and updated separately and any negotiations with any existing or potential customers and suppliers in relation to the Vorenta business will be carried out by the Vorenta business alone and for the avoidance of doubt the E&J business will not negotiate on behalf of the Vorenta business (and vice versa) or enter into any joint agreements with the Vorenta business (and vice versa);
- (h) all contracts of the Vorenta business and the E&J business continue to be serviced by the business to which they were awarded;
- (i) no changes are made to key staff of the Vorenta business or the E&J business;
- (j) no key staff are transferred between the Vorenta business and the E&J business;
- (k) all reasonable steps are taken to encourage all key staff to remain with the Vorenta business and the E&J business; and

- (l) no business secrets, know-how, commercially-sensitive information, intellectual property or any other information of a confidential or proprietary nature relating to either of the two businesses shall pass, directly or indirectly, from the Vorenta business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates) to the E&J business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates), or vice versa, except where strictly necessary in the ordinary course of business (including, for example, where required for compliance with external regulatory or accounting obligations or for due diligence, integration planning or the completion of any merger control proceedings relating to the transaction) and on the basis that, should the transaction be prohibited, any records or copies (electronic or otherwise) of such information that have passed, wherever they may be held, will be returned to the business to which they relate and any copies destroyed.

## **Compliance**

6. E&J and Vorenta shall take all necessary steps to ensure that each of their subsidiaries complies with this Order as if the Order had been issued to each of them.
7. E&J and Vorenta shall provide to the CMA such information or statement of compliance as it may from time to time require for the purposes of monitoring compliance by E&J and Vorenta and their subsidiaries with this Order. In particular, on the date two weeks from the commencement date (or, where this does not fall on a working day, the first working day thereafter) and subsequently every two weeks (or, where this does not fall on a working day, the first working day thereafter) the Chief Executive Officer of each of E&J and Vorenta or other persons of E&J and Vorenta as agreed with the CMA shall, on behalf of E&J and Vorenta provide a statement to the CMA in the form set out in the Annex to this Order confirming compliance with this Order.
8. At all times, E&J and Vorenta shall actively keep the CMA informed of any material developments relating to the Vorenta business or the E&J business, which includes but is not limited to:
- (a) details of key staff who leave or join the Vorenta business or the E&J business;
  - (b) any interruption of the Vorenta or E&J business (including without limitation its procurement, production, logistics, sales and employee

relations arrangements) that has prevented it from operating in the ordinary course of business for more than 24 hours;

- (c) all substantial customer volumes won or lost or substantial changes to the customer contracts for the Vorenta or E&J business including any substantial changes in customers' demand; and
  - (d) substantial changes in the Vorenta or E&J business' contractual arrangements or relationships with key suppliers.
9. If E&J or Vorenta has any reason to suspect that this Order might have been breached it shall immediately notify the CMA and any monitoring trustee that E&J and Vorenta may be directed to appoint under paragraph 10.
10. The CMA may give directions to a specified person or to a holder of a specified office in any body of persons (corporate or unincorporated) to take specified steps for the purpose of carrying out, or ensuring compliance with, this Order, or do or refrain from doing any specified action in order to ensure compliance with the Order. The CMA may vary or revoke any directions so given.
11. E&J and Vorenta shall comply in so far as they are able with such directions as the CMA may from time to time give to take such steps as may be specified or described in the directions for the purpose of carrying out or securing compliance with this Order.

## **Interpretation**

12. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply to this Order as it does to Acts of Parliament.
13. For the purposes of this Order:

**'the Act'** means the Enterprise Act 2002;

**'an affiliate'** of a person is another person who satisfies the following condition, namely that any enterprise (which, in this context, has the meaning given in section 129(1) of the Act) that the first person carries on from time to time and any enterprise that the second person carries on from time to time would be regarded as being under common control for the purposes of section 26 of the Act;

**'business'** has the meaning given by section 129(1) and (3) of the Act;

**'commencement date'** means 2 November 2022;

**'control'** includes the ability directly or indirectly to control or materially to influence the policy of a body corporate or the policy of any person in carrying on an enterprise;

**'E&J'** means Eville & Jones (Group) Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales, registered at Century House, 1275 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England, LS15 8ZB, with corporation number 10019077, and all entities under common ownership or control, or over which it exerts material influence, or which exert material influence over it within the meaning of section 26 of the Enterprise Act 2002, including for the avoidance of doubt, Eville & Jones Holdings Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales, registered at Century House, 1275 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England, LS15 8ZB, with corporation number 07440153;

**'the E&J business'** means the business of Eville & Jones (Group) Limited and its direct and indirect subsidiaries (including for the avoidance of doubt Eville & Jones Holdings Limited) but excluding the Vorenta business, carried on as at the commencement date;

**'the decisions'** means the decisions of the CMA on the questions which it is required to answer by virtue of section 35 of the Act;

**'key staff'** means staff in positions of (i) executive or managerial responsibility or (ii) whose performance affects the viability of the business;

**'the ordinary course of business'** means matters connected to the day-to-day supply of services by the Vorenta business or the E&J business and does not include matters involving significant changes to the organisational structure or related to the post-merger integration of Vorenta and E&J;

**'specified period'** means the period beginning on the commencement date and terminating in accordance with section 72(6) of the Act;

**'subsidiary'**, unless otherwise stated, has the meaning given by section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;

**'the Vorenta business'** means the business of Vorenta and its direct and indirect subsidiaries carried on as at the commencement date;

**'the transaction'** means the transaction by which Eville & Jones (Group) Limited, through its subsidiary Eville & Jones Holdings Limited, acquired the entire issued share capital of Vorenta, and thereby E&J and Vorenta have ceased to be distinct within the meaning of section 23 of the Act;

**'the two businesses'** means the E&J business and the Vorenta business;

**'Vorenta'** means Vorenta Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales, registered at Century House, 1275 Century Way, Thorpe Parke, Leeds, United Kingdom, LS15 8ZB, with company number 11172930, and all its subsidiaries within the meaning given by section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;

unless the context requires otherwise, the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

**Adam Phillimore**  
**Assistant Director, Mergers**

## **Compliance statement for E&J**

I [insert name] confirm on behalf of E&J that:

### **Compliance in the Relevant Period**

1. In the period from [insert date] to [insert date] (the Relevant Period):
  - (a) Eville & Jones (Group) Limited has complied with the Order made by the CMA in relation to the transaction on 2 November 2022 (the **Order**).
  - (b) Eville & Jones (Group) Limited's subsidiaries, including, for the avoidance of doubt, Eville & Jones Holdings Limited, have also complied with this Order.
2. Subject to paragraph 3 of the Order, and except with the prior written consent of the CMA:
  - (a) No action has been taken by E&J that might prejudice a reference of the transaction under section 22 of the Act or impede the taking of any action by the CMA which may be justified by its decision on such a reference, including any action which might:
    - (i) lead to the integration of the Vorenta business with the E&J business;
    - (ii) transfer the ownership or control of the E&J business or the Vorenta business or any of their subsidiaries; or
    - (iii) otherwise impair the ability of the Vorenta business or the E&J business to compete independently in any of the markets affected by the transaction.
  - (b) The Vorenta business has been carried on separately from the E&J business and the Vorenta business' separate sales or brand identity has been maintained.
  - (c) The Vorenta business and the E&J business have been maintained as a going concern and sufficient resources have been made available for the development of the Vorenta business and the E&J business, on the basis of their respective pre-merger business plans.



- (d) No significant changes have been made to the organisational structure of, or the management responsibilities within, the Vorenta business or the E&J business, except in the ordinary course of business.
- (e) The nature, description, range and quality of services supplied in the UK by the Vorenta business and the E&J business have been maintained and preserved.
- (f) Except in the ordinary course of business for the separate operation of the two businesses:
  - (i) all of the assets of the Vorenta business and the E&J business, including facilities and goodwill, have been maintained and preserved as at the start of the Relevant Period;
  - (ii) none of the assets of the Vorenta business or the E&J business have been disposed of; and
  - (iii) no interest in the assets of the Vorenta business or the E&J business has been created or disposed of.
- (g) There has been no integration of the information technology of the Vorenta or E&J businesses, and the software and hardware platforms of the Vorenta business have remained essentially unchanged, except for routine changes and maintenance.
- (h) Subject to integration which had occurred prior to the commencement date, the customer and supplier lists of the two businesses have been operated and updated separately and any negotiations with any existing or potential customers and suppliers in relation to the Vorenta business have been carried out by the Vorenta business alone and, for the avoidance of doubt, the E&J business has not negotiated on behalf of the Vorenta business (and vice versa) or entered into any joint agreements with the Vorenta business (and vice versa).
- (i) All contracts of the Vorenta business and the E&J business have been serviced by the business to which they were awarded, except to the extent novated, assigned or subcontracted prior to the commencement date.
- (j) No changes have been made to key staff of the Vorenta business or the E&J business.

- (k) No key staff have been transferred between the Vorenta business and the E&J business.
- (l) All reasonable steps have been taken to encourage all key staff to remain with the Vorenta business and the E&J business.
- (m) Except as permitted by the Order, no business secrets, know-how, commercially-sensitive information, intellectual property or any other information of a confidential or proprietary nature relating to either of the two businesses, has passed, directly or indirectly, from the Vorenta business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates) to the E&J business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates), or vice versa.
- (n) Except as listed in paragraph (o) below, there have been no:
  - (i) key staff that have left or joined the Vorenta business or the E&J business;
  - (ii) interruptions of the Vorenta business or the E&J business (including without limitation procurement, production, logistics, sales and employee relations arrangements) that have prevented it from operating in the ordinary course of business for more than 24 hours;
  - (iii) substantial customer volumes won or lost or substantial changes to the customer contracts for the Vorenta business or the E&J business; or
  - (iv) substantial changes in the Vorenta or the E&J business' contractual arrangements or relationships with key suppliers.
- (o) *[list of material developments]*

3. E&J and its subsidiaries remain in full compliance with the Order and will, or will take all necessary steps to ensure that Vorenta, continue actively to keep the CMA informed of any material developments relating to the Vorenta or the E&J business in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Order.

### **Interpretation**

4. Terms defined in the Order have the same meaning in this compliance statement.

**I understand that:**

5. it is a criminal offence under section 117 of the Enterprise Act 2002 for a person recklessly or knowingly to supply to the CMA information which is false or misleading in any material respect. Breach of this provision can result in **finances, imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.** (Section 117 of the Enterprise Act 2002.)
  
6. Failure to comply with this order without reasonable excuse may result in the CMA imposing a **penalty of up to 5% of the total value of the turnover** (both in and outside the UK) of the enterprises owned or controlled by the person on whom the penalty is imposed. (Section 94A of the Enterprise Act 2002.)

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF E&J

Signature .....

Name .....

Title .....

Date .....

## **Compliance statement for Vorenta**

I [insert name] confirm on behalf of Vorenta that:

### **Compliance in the Relevant Period**

1. In the period from [insert date] to [insert date] (the Relevant Period):
  - (a) Vorenta has complied with the Order made by the CMA in relation to the transaction on 2 November 2022 (the **Order**).
  - (b) Vorenta's subsidiaries have also complied with this Order.
2. Subject to paragraph 3 of the Order, and except with the prior written consent of the CMA:
  - (a) No action has been taken by Vorenta that might prejudice a reference of the transaction under section 22 of the Act or impede the taking of any action by the CMA which may be justified by its decision on such a reference, including any action which might:
    - (i) lead to the integration of the Vorenta business with the E&J business;
    - (ii) transfer the ownership or control of the E&J business or the Vorenta business or any of their subsidiaries; or
    - (iii) otherwise impair the ability of the Vorenta business or the E&J business to compete independently in any of the markets affected by the transaction.
  - (b) The Vorenta business has been carried on separately from the E&J business and the Vorenta business' separate sales or brand identity has been maintained.
  - (c) The Vorenta business has been maintained as a going concern and sufficient resources have been made available for the development of the Vorenta business on the basis of its respective pre-merger business plans.

- (d) No significant changes have been made to the organisational structure of, or the management responsibilities within, the Vorenta business, except in the ordinary course of business.
- (e) The nature, description, range and quality of services supplied in the UK by then Vorenta business have been maintained and preserved.
- (f) Except in the ordinary course of business for the separate operation of the two businesses:
  - (i) all of the assets of the Vorenta business, including facilities and goodwill, have been maintained and preserved as at the start of the Relevant Period;
  - (ii) none of the assets of the Vorenta business have been disposed of; and
  - (iii) no interest in the assets of the Vorenta business has been created or disposed of.
- (g) There has been no integration of the information technology of the Vorenta or E&J businesses, and the software and hardware platforms of the Vorenta business have remained essentially unchanged, except for routine changes and maintenance.
- (h) Subject to integration which had occurred prior to the commencement date, the customer and supplier lists of the two businesses have been operated and updated separately and any negotiations with any existing or potential customers and suppliers in relation to the Vorenta business have been carried out by the Vorenta business alone and, for the avoidance of doubt, the E&J business has not negotiated on behalf of the Vorenta business (and vice versa) or entered into any joint agreements with the Vorenta business (and vice versa).
- (i) All contracts of the Vorenta business and the E&J business have been serviced by the business to which they were awarded, except to the extent novated, assigned or subcontracted prior to the commencement date.
- (j) No changes have been made to key staff of the Vorenta business.
- (k) No key staff have been transferred between the Vorenta business and the E&J business.

- (l) All reasonable steps have been taken to encourage all key staff to remain with the Vorenta business.
- (m) Except as permitted by the Order, no business secrets, know-how, commercially-sensitive information, intellectual property or any other information of a confidential or proprietary nature relating to either of the two businesses, has passed, directly or indirectly, from the Vorenta business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates) to the E&J business (or any of its employees, directors, agents or affiliates), or vice versa.
- (n) Except as listed in paragraph (o) below, there have been no:
  - (i) key staff that have left or joined the Vorenta business;
  - (ii) interruptions of the Vorenta business (including without limitation procurement, production, logistics, sales and employee relations arrangements) that have prevented it from operating in the ordinary course of business for more than 24 hours;
  - (iii) substantial customer volumes won or lost or substantial changes to the customer contracts for the Vorenta business; or
  - (iv) substantial changes in the Vorenta business' contractual arrangements or relationships with key suppliers.
- (o) *[list of material developments]*

3. Vorenta and its subsidiaries remain in full compliance with the Order and will continue actively to keep the CMA informed of any material developments relating to the Vorenta business in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Order.

### **Interpretation**

4. Terms defined in the Order have the same meaning in this compliance statement.

### **I understand that:**

5. it is a criminal offence under section 117 of the Enterprise Act 2002 for a person recklessly or knowingly to supply to the CMA information which is false or misleading in any material respect. Breach of this provision can result in **fines, imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.** (Section 117 of the Enterprise Act 2002.)

Failure to comply with this order without reasonable excuse may result in the CMA imposing a **penalty of up to 5% of the total value of the turnover** (both in and outside the United Kingdom) of the enterprises owned or controlled by the person on whom the penalty is imposed. (Section 94A of the Enterprise Act 2002.)

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF VORENTA

Signature .....

Name .....

Title .....

Date .....