

Completed acquisition by Asda Stores Limited of Arthur Foodstores Limited from Co-operative Group Limited

17 January 2023

NOTICE UNDER PARAGRAPH (b) OF THE DEFINITION OF 'INITIAL PERIOD' IN SECTION 34ZA(3) OF THE ENTERPRISE ACT 2002 (THE ACT) PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 107(1)(ab) OF THE ACT

The Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) hereby gives notice pursuant to paragraph (b) of the definition of 'initial period' in section 34ZA(3) of the Act that it has sufficient information in relation to the completed acquisition by Asda Stores Limited of Arthur Foodstores Limited from Co-operative Group Limited (the **Merger**) to enable it to begin an investigation for the purposes of deciding whether to make a reference for a Phase 2 investigation.

The initial period defined in section 34ZA(3) of the Act in relation to the Merger will therefore commence on the first working day after the date of this notice, ie on 18 January 2023. The end of the initial period and the deadline for the CMA to announce its decision whether to refer the Merger for a Phase 2 investigation is therefore 14 March 2023.