

## **Somerset Bridge Limited response to provisional findings**

Hello

Somerset Bridge Ltd has been a customer of Copart for more than 15 years. During that time, we have gone through a number of tender processes to ensure that we partner with the best salvage partner to meet our policy holder and insurer partner needs.

In all instances the full Salvage market was surveyed, and Due Diligence was carried out on a number of suppliers. Working in the insurance industry for more than 30 years, I am confident that I am fully appraised and qualified to make supplier decisions and I hold extensive knowledge of the Salvage market.

For some time we have had a requirement for Green parts to align with our brand Vavista but also to lower the cost of repairs to our policy holder vehicles. During Covid this became even more apparent as the manufacture and supply of new parts slowed.

Whilst we are familiar with Hills from our market intel as mentioned above, we would not award our national contract to them due to their capability. Whilst we are aware that Hills supply Ageas this would not be a determining factor in our decision.

We were pleased to hear about the acquisition of Hills by Copart as this would enhance their service to our policy holders and whilst this reduces the salvage suppliers in the market there is still sufficient competition to consider when we next tender.

I would therefore urge the CMA to reconsider their decision particularly as I am aware they approved IAA's acquisition of Synetiq which in my view is no different to Copart acquiring Hills.

I am happy to discuss the matter further and can be contacted below should required.

Regards  
Mel Bebbington  
Claims Operations Director

23 May 2023