

COMPLETED ACQUISITION BY PENNON GROUP PLC OF SUMISHO OSAKA GAS WATER UK LIMITED

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

The Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) hereby gives notice pursuant to the definition of 'initial period' in section 34ZA(3) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**), having effect as amended by the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, that it has sufficient information in relation to the completed acquisition by Pennon Group plc of Sumisho Osaka Gas Water UK Limited¹ (the **Transaction**) to enable it to begin an investigation for the purposes of deciding whether to make a reference for a Phase 2 investigation in connection with its duty under section 32(b) of the Water Industry Act 1991.

The initial period defined in section 34ZA(3) of the Act in relation to the Transaction will therefore commence on the first working day after the date of this notice, ie on Friday 8 March 2023. The deadline for the CMA to announce its decision whether to refer the Merger for a phase 2 investigation is therefore 7 May 2024.

¹ Following completion of the Transaction, Sumisho Osaka Gas Water UK Limited's name was changed to Sutton and East Surrey Group Holdings Limited.