

## **ANTICIPATED JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN VODAFONE GROUP PLC AND CK HUTCHISON HOLDINGS LIMITED CONCERNING VODAFONE LIMITED AND HUTCHISON 3G UK LIMITED**

### **Notice of extension under section 41A(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 of the period for the discharge of the duty under section 41(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002.**

1. On 4 April 2024, the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**), in exercise of its duty under [section 33\(1\)](#) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**), referred the anticipated joint venture between Vodafone Group Plc (**Vodafone**) and CK Hutchison Holdings Limited (**CK Hutchison**), that will combine their UK telecoms businesses, respectively Vodafone Limited and Hutchison 3G UK Limited (the **Merger**), for further investigation and report by a group of CMA panel members.
2. On 5 December 2024, the CMA published a final report pursuant to [section 38](#) of the Act (the **Final Report**).
3. On 17 February 2025 the CMA published a Notice of Proposal to accept final Undertakings to discharge the statutory duty set out in [section 41\(2\)](#) of the Act. The statutory period for the CMA to accept final Undertakings or make a final Order ends on 27 February 2025.
4. The inquiry group now considers that it will not be possible to discharge of its duty under section 41(2) of the Act by the 27 February 2025. The inquiry group has decided to extend by six weeks under [section 41A\(2\)](#) of the Act the period for the discharge of its duty under section 41(2) of the Act, as it considers there are special reasons to do so (set out below). The revised period will therefore end on 10 April 2025. However, the inquiry group aims to discharge its duty as soon as possible and in advance of this date.
5. In coming to that conclusion, the inquiry group had regard to the following factors:
  - (a) the complex nature and scope of the remedies, consisting of the Network Commitment supported by the Time Limited Protections (as defined in the Final Report). Under the Network Commitment, the Parties would undertake to deliver their network investment programme over the next 8

years across the UK. The Time Limited Protections would require the Parties, for at least 3 years, to retain certain existing retail mobile tariff and data plans and to commit to pre-agreed prices and contract terms for Mobile Virtual Network Operators. Although the Final Report set out the key aspects of the remedies, the detailed specification of the undertakings which are proposed to give effect to the Network Commitment and Time Limited Protections has required, and may continue to require, multiple rounds of engagement between the CMA and the Parties; and

(b) the need for the Parties' spectrum licences to be varied to incorporate the Network Commitment, which is fundamental to the effectiveness of the overall remedy. This has required, and may continue to require, multiple rounds of engagement with Ofcom in relation to the implementation and oversight of the remedy; and

(c) the need for the CMA to consult on the draft undertakings and to take into account any submissions received in response to the consultation before reaching a final decision on whether to accept the undertakings.

Signed by the Authority of the CMA

Stuart McIntosh  
*Inquiry Group Chair*  
17 February 2025