

## REFERENCE RELATING TO THE ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY BOPARAN LIMITED OF FORFARMERS UK LIMITED'S BURSTON AND RADSTOCK FEED MILLS

### Interim Report: Notice made under Rule 11 of the Competition and Markets Authority Rules of Procedure<sup>1</sup>

1. On 20 November 2024, the Competition and Markets Authority (the **CMA**), in exercise of its duty under [section 33\(1\)](#) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**), made a reference to its chair for the constitution of a Group of CMA Panel Members (the **Inquiry Group**)<sup>2</sup> regarding the anticipated acquisition by Boparan Private Office Limited (via 2 Agriculture Limited (**2Agriculture**)) (together referred to as **Boparan**) of ForFarmers UK Limited's (**ForFarmers**) Burston and Radstock feed mills (the **Merger**) for further investigation and requiring it to report within a period ending on 13 May 2025.<sup>3</sup>

### Interim Report

2. The Inquiry Group appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to [section 36\(1\)](#) of the Act:
  - (a) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
  - (b) the creation of that situation may not be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within a market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.
3. The Inquiry Group's reasons are set out in full in the Interim Report, which is attached to this notice, and are summarised in the summary of the Interim Report (see note below).

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<sup>1</sup> See [Rules of procedure for merger, market and special reference groups: CMA17](#), 25 April 2024 Rule 11.

<sup>2</sup> Under [Schedule 4](#) to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Boparan and ForFarmers are each a **Party** to the Merger; together they are referred to as the **Parties** and, for statements relating to the future where Boparan acquires ForFarmers' Burston and Radstock feed mills (if the Merger was to proceed), as the **Merged Entity**.

## The next steps

4. Anyone wishing to comment on the Interim Report is now invited to provide the Inquiry Group with their reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
5. These reasons should be received by the Inquiry Group no later than **5pm on Tuesday 11 March 2025**. For comments submitted by email, these should be sent to [2Agriculture.ForFarmers@cma.gov.uk](mailto:2Agriculture.ForFarmers@cma.gov.uk).
6. The Inquiry Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions. However, the Inquiry Group shall not be obliged to take into account reasons which are provided after the deadline specified in paragraph 5.

Kirstin Baker  
Inquiry Group Chair  
18 February 2025

*Note:* A copy of this notice and the summary of the Interim Report will be placed on the [CMA website](#) on 18 February 2025. The CMA proposes to publish the Interim Report on its website shortly thereafter. The published version of the Interim Report will not contain any information which the Inquiry Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in [section 244](#) of the Act. These omissions are indicated by [X].