

ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS PLC (THROUGH ABF GRAIN PRODUCTS LIMITED) OF HOVIS GROUP LIMITED

19 December 2025

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 96(2A) OF THE ENTERPRISE ACT 2002 PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 107(1)(I) OF THE ENTERPRISE ACT 2002

The Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) hereby gives notice pursuant to section 96(2A) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**) that the merger notice provided by Associated British Foods plc (**ABF**), Hovis Group Limited (**Hovis**), and Endless LLP in relation to the anticipated acquisition by ABF (via its wholly owned indirect subsidiary, ABF Grain Products Limited) of Hovis (the **Transaction**) meets the requirements of section 96(2) of the Act.

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 22 December 2025. The deadline for the CMA to announce its decision whether to refer the Merger for a phase 2 investigation is therefore 19 February 2026.