

ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY CELESIO AG OF SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKETS LIMITED UK PHARMACY BUSINESS

Notice of extension of inquiry period published pursuant to section 107(2)(c) of the Enterprise Act 2002

On 29 December 2015, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) made a reference under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) concerning the anticipated acquisition by Celesio AG (Celesio) of Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited UK Pharmacy Business (Sainsbury's).

The period within which the report on this reference was to be prepared and published was due to expire on 13 June 2016 (the reference period).

The members of the CMA panel appointed to consider this reference (inquiry group) have decided, pursuant to section 39(3) of the Act, that the reference period should be further extended by eight weeks to 8 August 2016 (the extended reference period). However, the inquiry group aims to complete the inquiry as soon as possible and in advance of this date.

In taking this decision, the inquiry group had regard to the scope and complexity of the inquiry, the need to allow sufficient time to take full account of any representations received, including responses to the provisional findings, and the need to provide a fully reasoned decision within the statutory time frame. The inquiry group considered that completion of its investigation and publication of its final report would not have been possible within the reference period, unless extended.

SIMON POLITO

Chairman

25 May 2016