

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/22 Duty to make references in relation to completed mergers

Part 3

Mergers

**Chapter 1
Duty to Make References**

Duty to make references: completed mergers

22 Duty to make references in relation to completed mergers

(1) The OFT shall, subject to subsections (2) and (3), make a reference to the Commission if the OFT believes that it is or may be the case that--

- (a) a relevant merger situation has been created; and
- (b) the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

(2) The OFT may decide not to make a reference under this section if it believes that--

- (a) the market concerned is not, or the markets concerned are not, of sufficient importance to justify the making of a reference to the Commission; or
- (b) any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned outweigh the substantial lessening of competition concerned and any adverse effects of the substantial lessening of competition concerned.

(3) No reference shall be made under this section if--

- (a) the making of the reference is prevented by section . . . 74(1) or 96(3) or paragraph 4 of Schedule 7;
- (b) the OFT is considering whether to accept undertakings under section 73 instead of making such a reference;
- (c) the relevant merger situation concerned is being, or has been, dealt with in connection with a reference made under section 33;
- (d) a notice under section 42(2) is in force in relation to the matter or the matter to which such a notice relates has been finally determined under Chapter 2 otherwise than in circumstances in which a notice is then given to the OFT under section 56(1); . . .
- (e) the European Commission is considering a request made, in relation to the matter concerned, by the United Kingdom (whether alone or with others) under article [22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation], is proceeding with the matter in pursuance of such a request or has dealt with the matter in pursuance of such a request; or
- (f) subject to subsection (3A), a reasoned submission requesting referral to the European Commission has been submitted to the European Commission under article 4(5) of the EC Merger Regulation].

[(3A) Subsection (3)(f) shall cease to apply if the OFT is informed that a Member State competent to examine the concentration under its national competition law has, within the time permitted by Article 4(5) of the EC Merger Regulation, expressed its disagreement as regards the request to refer the case to the European Commission; and this subsection shall be construed in accordance with that Regulation.]

(4) A reference under this section shall, in particular, specify--

- (a) the enactment under which it is made; and
- (b) the date on which it is made.

(5) The references in this section to the creation of a relevant merger situation shall be construed in accordance with section 23, the reference in subsection (2) of this section to relevant customer benefits shall be construed in accordance with section 30 and the reference in subsection (3) of this section to a matter to which a notice under section 42(2) relates being finally determined under Chapter 2 shall be construed in accordance with section 43(4) and (5).

(6) In this Part "market in the United Kingdom" includes--

- (a) so far as it operates in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom, any market which operates there and in another country or territory or in a part of another country or territory; and
- (b) any market which operates only in a part of the United Kingdom;

and references to a market for goods or services include references to a market for goods and services.

(7) In this Part "the decision-making authority" means--

- (a) in the case of a reference or possible reference under this section or section 33, the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission; and
- (b) in the case of a notice or possible notice under section 42(2) or 59(2) or a reference or possible reference under section 45 or 62, the OFT, the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (3): in para (a) reference omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (3): in para (d) word omitted repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (2)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (3): in para (e) words "22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (2)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (3): para (f) and word "; or" immediately preceding it inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (3).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (3A): inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (4).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 4.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/23 Relevant merger situations

23 Relevant merger situations

(1) For the purposes of this Part, a relevant merger situation has been created if--

- (a) two or more enterprises have ceased to be distinct enterprises at a time or in circumstances falling within section 24; and
- (b) the value of the turnover in the United Kingdom of the enterprise being taken over exceeds £70 million.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, a relevant merger situation has also been created if--

- (a) two or more enterprises have ceased to be distinct enterprises at a time or in circumstances falling within section 24; and
- (b) as a result, one or both of the conditions mentioned in subsections (3) and (4) below prevails or prevails to a greater extent.

(3) The condition mentioned in this subsection is that, in relation to the supply of goods of any description, at least one-quarter of all the goods of that description which are supplied in the United Kingdom, or in a substantial part of the United Kingdom--

- (a) are supplied by one and the same person or are supplied to one and the same person; or
- (b) are supplied by the persons by whom the enterprises concerned are carried on, or are supplied to those persons.

(4) The condition mentioned in this subsection is that, in relation to the supply of services of any description, the supply of services of that description in the United Kingdom, or in a substantial part of the United Kingdom, is to the extent of at least one-quarter--

- (a) supply by one and the same person, or supply for one and the same person; or
- (b) supply by the persons by whom the enterprises concerned are carried on, or supply for those

persons.

(5) For the purpose of deciding whether the proportion of one-quarter mentioned in subsection (3) or (4) is fulfilled with respect to goods or (as the case may be) services of any description, the decision-making authority shall apply such criterion (whether value, cost, price, quantity, capacity, number of workers employed or some other criterion, of whatever nature), or such combination of criteria, as the decision-making authority considers appropriate.

(6) References in subsections (3) and (4) to the supply of goods or (as the case may be) services shall, in relation to goods or services of any description which are the subject of different forms of supply, be construed in whichever of the following ways the decision-making authority considers appropriate--

- (a) as references to any of those forms of supply taken separately;
- (b) as references to all those forms of supply taken together; or
- (c) as references to any of those forms of supply taken in groups.

(7) For the purposes of subsection (6) the decision-making authority may treat goods or services as being the subject of different forms of supply whenever--

- (a) the transactions concerned differ as to their nature, their parties, their terms or their surrounding circumstances; and
- (b) the difference is one which, in the opinion of the decision-making authority, ought for the purposes of that subsection to be treated as a material difference.

(8) The criteria for deciding when goods or services can be treated, for the purposes of this section, as goods or services of a separate description shall be such as in any particular case the decision-making authority considers appropriate in the circumstances of that case.

(9) For the purposes of this Chapter, the question whether a relevant merger situation has been created shall be determined as at--

- (a) in the case of a reference which is treated as having been made under section 22 by virtue of section 37(2), such time as the Commission may determine; and
- (b) in any other case, immediately before the time when the reference has been, or is to be, made.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 4.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/24 Time-limits and prior notice

24 Time-limits and prior notice

(1) For the purposes of section 23 two or more enterprises have ceased to be distinct enterprises at a time or in circumstances falling within this section if--

(a) the two or more enterprises ceased to be distinct enterprises before the day on which the reference relating to them is to be made and did so not more than four months before that day; or

(b) notice of material facts about the arrangements or transactions under or in consequence of which the enterprises have ceased to be distinct enterprises has not been given in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) Notice of material facts is given in accordance with this subsection if--

(a) it is given to the OFT prior to the entering into of the arrangements or transactions concerned or the facts are made public prior to the entering into of those arrangements or transactions; or

(b) it is given to the OFT, or the facts are made public, more than four months before the day on which the reference is to be made.

(3) In this section--

"made public" means so publicised as to be generally known or readily ascertainable; and

"notice" includes notice which is not in writing.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 4.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/25 Extension of time-limits

25 Extension of time-limits

- (1) The OFT and the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises may agree to extend by no more than 20 days the four month period mentioned in section 24(1)(a) or (2)(b).
- (2) The OFT may by notice to the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises extend the four month period mentioned in section 24(1)(a) or (2)(b) if it considers that any of those persons has failed to provide, within the period stated in a notice under section 31 and in the manner authorised or required, information requested of him in that notice.
- (3) An extension under subsection (2) shall be for the period beginning with the end of the period within which the information is to be provided and which is stated in the notice under section 31 and ending with--
 - (a) the provision of the information to the satisfaction of the OFT; or
 - (b) if earlier, the cancellation by the OFT of the extension.
- (4) The OFT may by notice to the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises extend the four month period mentioned in section 24(1)(a) or (2)(b) if it is seeking undertakings from any of those persons under section 73.
- (5) An extension under subsection (4) shall be for the period beginning with the receipt of the notice under that subsection and ending with the earliest of the following events--
 - (a) the giving of the undertakings concerned;
 - (b) the expiry of the period of 10 days beginning with the first day after the receipt by the OFT of a notice from the person who has been given a notice under subsection (4) and from whom the undertakings are being sought stating that he does not intend to give the undertakings; or
 - (c) the cancellation by the OFT of the extension.
- (6) The OFT may by notice to the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises extend the four month period mentioned in section 24(1)(a) or (2)(b) if the European Commission is considering a request made, in relation to the matter concerned, by the United Kingdom (whether alone or with others) under article [22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation] (but is not yet proceeding with the matter in pursuance of such a request).
- (7) An extension under subsection (6) shall be for the period beginning with the receipt of the notice under that subsection and ending with the receipt of a notice under subsection (8).
- (8) The OFT shall, in connection with any notice given by it under subsection (6), by notice inform the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises of the completion by the European Commission of its consideration of the request of the United Kingdom.
- (9) Subject to subsections (10) and (11), where the four month period mentioned in section 24(1)(a) or (2)(b) is extended or further extended by virtue of this section in relation to a particular case, any reference to that period in section 24 or the preceding provisions of this section shall have effect in relation to that case as if it were a reference to a period equivalent to the aggregate of the period being extended and the period of the extension (whether or not those periods overlap in time).
- (10) Subsection (11) applies where--
 - (a) the four month period mentioned in section 24(1)(a) or (2)(b) is further extended;

- (b) the further extension and at least one previous extension is made under one or more of subsections (2), (4) and (6); and
- (c) the same days or fractions of days are included in or comprise the further extension and are included in or comprise at least one such previous extension.
- (11) In calculating the period of the further extension, any days or fractions of days of the kind mentioned in subsection (10)(c) shall be disregarded.
- (12) No more than one extension is possible under subsection (1).

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (6): words "22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (5).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (2), (4)-(11) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 5. See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/26 Enterprises ceasing to be distinct enterprises

26 Enterprises ceasing to be distinct enterprises

- (1) For the purposes of this Part any two enterprises cease to be distinct enterprises if they are brought under common ownership or common control (whether or not the business to which either of them formerly belonged continues to be carried on under the same or different ownership or control).
- (2) Enterprises shall, in particular, be treated as being under common control if they are--
- (a) enterprises of interconnected bodies corporate;

- (b) enterprises carried on by two or more bodies corporate of which one and the same person or group of persons has control; or
- (c) an enterprise carried on by a body corporate and an enterprise carried on by a person or group of persons having control of that body corporate.
- (3) A person or group of persons able, directly or indirectly, to control or materially to influence the policy of a body corporate, or the policy of any person in carrying on an enterprise but without having a controlling interest in that body corporate or in that enterprise, may, for the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), be treated as having control of it.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1), in so far as it relates to bringing two or more enterprises under common control, a person or group of persons may be treated as bringing an enterprise under his or their control if--
- (a) being already able to control or materially to influence the policy of the person carrying on the enterprise, that person or group of persons acquires a controlling interest in the enterprise or, in the case of an enterprise carried on by a body corporate, acquires a controlling interest in that body corporate; or
- (b) being already able materially to influence the policy of the person carrying on the enterprise, that person or group of persons becomes able to control that policy.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/27 Time when enterprises cease to be distinct

27 Time when enterprises cease to be distinct

- (1) Subsection (2) applies in relation to any arrangements or transaction--
- (a) not having immediate effect or having immediate effect only in part; but
- (b) under or in consequence of which any two enterprises cease to be distinct enterprises.
- (2) The time when the parties to any such arrangements or transaction become bound to such extent as

will result, on effect being given to their obligations, in the enterprises ceasing to be distinct enterprises shall be taken to be the time at which the two enterprises cease to be distinct enterprises.

(3) In accordance with subsections (1) and (2) (but without prejudice to the generality of those subsections) for the purpose of determining the time at which any two enterprises cease to be distinct enterprises no account shall be taken of any option or other conditional right until the option is exercised or the condition is satisfied.

(4) Subsections (1) to (3) are subject to subsections (5) to (8) and section 29.

(5) The decision-making authority may, for the purposes of a reference, treat successive events to which this subsection applies as having occurred simultaneously on the date on which the latest of them occurred.

(6) Subsection (5) applies to successive events--

(a) which occur within a period of two years under or in consequence of the same arrangements or transaction, or successive arrangements or transactions between the same parties or interests; and

(b) by virtue of each of which, under or in consequence of the arrangements or the transaction or transactions concerned, any enterprises cease as between themselves to be distinct enterprises.

(7) The decision-making authority may, for the purposes of subsections (5) and (6), treat such arrangements or transactions as the decision-making authority considers appropriate as arrangements or transactions between the same interests.

(8) In deciding whether it is appropriate to treat arrangements or transactions as arrangements or transactions between the same interests the decision-making authority shall, in particular, have regard to the persons substantially concerned in the arrangements or transactions concerned.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Sub-ss (1)-(4), (6)-(8): Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Sub-s (5): Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule; for transitional provisions and savings see art 4(2)-(4) thereof and SI 2004/3233, art 3.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/28 Turnover test

28 Turnover test

(1) For the purposes of section 23 the value of the turnover in the United Kingdom of the enterprise

being taken over shall be determined by taking the total value of the turnover in the United Kingdom of the enterprises which cease to be distinct enterprises and deducting--

- (a) the turnover in the United Kingdom of any enterprise which continues to be carried on under the same ownership and control; or
 - (b) if no enterprise continues to be carried on under the same ownership and control, the turnover in the United Kingdom which, of all the turnovers concerned, is the turnover of the highest value.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part (other than section 121(4)(c)(ii)) the turnover in the United Kingdom of an enterprise shall be determined in accordance with such provisions as may be specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (3) An order under subsection (2) may, in particular, make provision as to--
- (a) the amounts which are, or which are not, to be treated as comprising an enterprise's turnover;
 - (b) the date or dates by reference to which an enterprise's turnover is to be determined;
 - (c) the connection with the United Kingdom by virtue of which an enterprise's turnover is turnover in the United Kingdom.
- (4) An order under subsection (2) may, in particular, make provision enabling the decision-making authority to determine matters of a description specified in the order (including any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (3)).
- (5) The OFT shall--
- (a) keep under review the sum for the time being mentioned in section 23(1)(b); and
 - (b) from time to time advise the Secretary of State as to whether the sum is still appropriate.
- (6) The Secretary of State may by order amend section 23(1)(b) so as to alter the sum for the time being mentioned there.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(a), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

Enterprise Act 2002 (Merger Fees and Determination of Turnover) Order 2003, SI 2003/1370.
Enterprise Act 2002 (Merger Fees and Determination of Turnover) (Amendment) Order 2004, SI 2004/3204.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/29 Obtaining control by stages

29 Obtaining control by stages

(1) Where an enterprise is brought under the control of a person or group of persons in the course of two or more transactions (in this section a "series of transactions") to which subsection (2) applies, those transactions may, if the decision-making authority considers it appropriate, be treated for the purposes of a reference as having occurred simultaneously on the date on which the latest of them occurred.

(2) This subsection applies to--

(a) any transaction which--

(i) enables that person or group of persons directly or indirectly to control or materially to influence the policy of any person carrying on the enterprise;

(ii) enables that person or group of persons to do so to a greater degree; or

(iii) is a step (whether direct or indirect) towards enabling that person or group of persons to do so; and

(b) any transaction by virtue of which that person or group of persons acquires a controlling interest in the enterprise or, where the enterprise is carried on by a body corporate, in that body corporate.

(3) Where a series of transactions includes a transaction falling within subsection (2)(b), any transaction occurring after the occurrence of that transaction is to be disregarded for the purposes of subsection (1).

(4) Where the period within which a series of transactions occurs exceeds two years, the transactions that may be treated as mentioned in subsection (1) are any of those transactions that occur within a period of two years.

(5) Sections 26(2) to (4) and 127(1), (2) and (4) to (6) shall apply for the purposes of this section to determine--

(a) whether an enterprise is brought under the control of a person or group of persons; and

(b) whether a transaction is one to which subsection (2) applies;

as they apply for the purposes of section 26 to determine whether enterprises are brought under common control.

(6) In determining for the purposes of this section the time at which any transaction occurs, no account shall be taken of any option or other conditional right until the option is exercised or the condition is satisfied.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Sub-s (1): Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule; for transitional provisions

and savings see art 4(2)-(4) thereof and SI 2004/3233, art 3.
 Sub-ss (2)-(6): Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/30 Relevant customer benefits

30 Relevant customer benefits

- (1) For the purposes of this Part a benefit is a relevant customer benefit if--
 - (a) it is a benefit to relevant customers in the form of--
 - (i) lower prices, higher quality or greater choice of goods or services in any market in the United Kingdom (whether or not the market or markets in which the substantial lessening of competition concerned has, or may have, occurred or (as the case may be) may occur); or
 - (ii) greater innovation in relation to such goods or services; and
 - (b) the decision-making authority believes--
 - (i) in the case of a reference or possible reference under section 22 or 45(2), as mentioned in subsection (2); and
 - (ii) in the case of a reference or possible reference under section 33 or 45(4), as mentioned in subsection (3).
- (2) The belief, in the case of a reference or possible reference under section 22 or section 45(2), is that--
 - (a) the benefit has accrued as a result of the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned or may be expected to accrue within a reasonable period as a result of the creation of that situation; and
 - (b) the benefit was, or is, unlikely to accrue without the creation of that situation or a similar lessening of competition.
- (3) The belief, in the case of a reference or possible reference under section 33 or 45(4), is that--
 - (a) the benefit may be expected to accrue within a reasonable period as a result of the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned; and
 - (b) the benefit is unlikely to accrue without the creation of that situation or a similar lessening of competition.
- (4) In subsection (1) "relevant customers" means--
 - (a) customers of any person carrying on an enterprise which, in the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned, has ceased to be, or (as the case may be) will cease to be, a distinct enterprise;
 - (b) customers of such customers; and

- (c) any other customers in a chain of customers beginning with the customers mentioned in paragraph (a);

and in this subsection "customers" includes future customers.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 6.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/31 Information powers in relation to completed mergers

31 Information powers in relation to completed mergers

(1) The OFT may by notice to any of the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises request him to provide the OFT with such information as the OFT may require for the purpose of deciding whether to make a reference under section 22.

(2) The notice shall state--

- (a) the information required;
- (b) the period within which the information is to be provided; and
- (c) the possible consequences of not providing the information within the stated period and in the authorised or required manner.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 7.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/32 Supplementary provision for purposes of sections 25 and 31

32 Supplementary provision for purposes of sections 25 and 31

(1) The Secretary of State may make regulations for the purposes of sections 25 and 31.

(2) The regulations may, in particular--

(a) provide for the manner in which any information requested by the OFT under section 31 is authorised or required to be provided, and the time at which such information is to be treated as provided (including the time at which it is to be treated as provided to the satisfaction of the OFT for the purposes of section 25(3));

(b) provide for the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises to be informed, in circumstances in which section 25(3) applies--

(i) of the fact that the OFT is satisfied as to the provision of the information requested by it or (as the case may be) of the OFT's decision to cancel the extension; and

(ii) of the time at which the OFT is to be treated as so satisfied or (as the case may be) of the time at which the cancellation is to be treated as having effect;

(c) provide for the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises to be informed, in circumstances in which section 25(5) applies--

(i) of the OFT's decision to cancel the extension; and

(ii) of the time at which the cancellation is to be treated as having effect;

(d) provide for the time at which any notice under section 25(4), (5)(b), (6) or (8) is to be treated as received;

(e) provide that a person is, or is not, to be treated, in such circumstances as may be specified in the regulations, as acting on behalf of a person carrying on an enterprise which has or may have ceased to be a distinct enterprise.

(3) A notice under section 25(2)--

(a) shall be given within 5 days of the end of the period within which the information is to be provided and which is stated in the notice under section 31; and

- (b) shall inform the person to whom it is addressed of--
- (i) the OFT's opinion as mentioned in section 25(2); and
 - (ii) the OFT's intention to extend the period for considering whether to make a reference.

(4) In determining for the purposes of section 25(1) or (5)(b) or subsection (3)(a) above any period which is expressed in the enactment concerned as a period of days or number of days no account shall be taken of--

- (a) Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day; and
- (b) any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, in relation to the determination of a relevant merger situation: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 2, Sch 1.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (2), (4) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 8.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/33 Duty to make references in relation to anticipated mergers

Duty to make references: anticipated mergers

33 Duty to make references in relation to anticipated mergers

(1) The OFT shall, subject to subsections (2) and (3), make a reference to the Commission if the OFT believes that it is or may be the case that--

- (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 be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

- (2) The OFT may decide not to make a reference under this section if it believes that--
- (a) the market concerned is not, or the markets concerned are not, of sufficient importance to justify the making of a reference to the Commission;
 - (b) the arrangements concerned are not sufficiently far advanced, or are not sufficiently likely to proceed, to justify the making of a reference to the Commission; or
 - (c) any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned outweigh the substantial lessening of competition concerned and any adverse effects of the substantial lessening of competition concerned.
- (3) No reference shall be made under this section if--
- (a) the making of the reference is prevented by section . . . 74(1) or 96(3) or paragraph 4 of Schedule 7;
 - (b) the OFT is considering whether to accept undertakings under section 73 instead of making such a reference;
 - (c) the arrangements concerned are being, or have been, dealt with in connection with a reference made under section 22;
 - (d) a notice under section 42(2) is in force in relation to the matter or the matter to which such a notice relates has been finally determined under Chapter 2 otherwise than in circumstances in which a notice is then given to the OFT under section 56(1); . . .
 - (e) the European Commission is considering a request made, in relation to the matter concerned, by the United Kingdom (whether alone or with others) under article [22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation], is proceeding with the matter in pursuance of such a request or has dealt with the matter in pursuance of such a request[; or
 - (f) subject to subsection (3A), a reasoned submission requesting referral to the European Commission has been submitted to the European Commission under article 4(5) of the EC Merger Regulation].
- [(3A) Section 33(3)(f) shall cease to apply if the OFT is informed that a Member State competent to examine the concentration under its national competition law has, within the time permitted by Article 4(5) of the EC Merger Regulation, expressed its disagreement as regards the request to refer the case to the European Commission; and this subsection shall be construed in accordance with that Regulation.]
- (4) A reference under this section shall, in particular, specify--
- (a) the enactment under which it is made; and
 - (b) the date on which it is made.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (3): in para (a) reference omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (3): in para (d) word omitted repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (6)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (3): in para (e) words "22(1) of the EC Merger Regulations" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (6)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (3): sub-para (f) and word "; or" immediately preceding it inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (7).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (3A): inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (8).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 9.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/34 Supplementary provision in relation to anticipated mergers

34 Supplementary provision in relation to anticipated mergers

(1) The Secretary of State may by order make such provision as he considers appropriate about the operation of sections 27 and 29 in relation to--

(a) references under this Part which relate to arrangements which are in progress or in contemplation;
or

(b) notices under section 42(2), 59(2) or 67(2) which relate to such arrangements.

(2) An order under subsection (1) may, in particular--

(a) provide for sections 27(5) to (8) and 29 to apply with modifications in relation to such references or notices or in relation to particular descriptions of such references or notices;

(b) enable particular descriptions of events, arrangements or transactions which have already occurred--

(i) to be taken into account for the purposes of deciding whether to make such references or such references of a particular description or whether to give such notices or such notices of a particular description;

(ii) to be dealt with under such references or such references of a particular description or under such notices or such notices of a particular description.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1)(a) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 10(1).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

Enterprise Act 2002 (Anticipated Mergers) Order 2003, SI 2003/1595.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[34A Duty of OFT where case referred by the European Commission]

[Cases referred by European Commission under EC Merger Regulation]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (9).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

[34A Duty of OFT where case referred by the European Commission]

[(1) Subsection (2) applies if the European Commission has by a decision referred the whole or part of a case to the OFT under Article 4(4) or 9 of the EC Merger Regulation, or is deemed to have taken such a decision, unless an intervention notice is in force in relation to that case.

(2) Before the end of the preliminary assessment period, the OFT shall--

- (a) decide whether to make a reference to the Commission under section 22 or 33; and
- (b) inform the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned by notice of that decision and of the reasons for it.
- (3) The OFT may, for the purposes of subsection (2), decide not to make a reference on the basis that it is considering whether to seek or accept undertakings under section 73 instead of making a reference; but a decision taken on that basis does not prevent the OFT from making a reference under section 22 or 33 in the event of no such undertakings being offered or accepted.
- (4) In this section--
- "the preliminary assessment period" means, subject to subsection (5), the period of 45 working days beginning with the day after the day on which the decision of the European Commission to refer the case is taken (or is deemed to have been taken); and
- "working day" means any day which is not--
- (a) a Saturday;
- (b) a Sunday; or
- (c) a day which is a European Commission holiday (as published in the Official Journal of the [European Union] before the beginning of the year in which it occurs).
- (5) If the OFT has imposed a requirement under section 34B and it considers that the person on whom that requirement was imposed has failed to comply with it, the OFT may, by notice to the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned, extend the preliminary assessment period.
- (6) The period of an extension under subsection (5) shall--
- (a) begin with the end of the period within which the requirement under section 34B could be complied with; and
- (b) end with the earlier of either compliance with the requirement to the satisfaction of the OFT or cancellation by the OFT of the extension.
- (7) A notice under subsection (6) shall--
- (a) be given within 5 working days of the end of the period mentioned in paragraph (a) of that subsection; and
- (b) inform the person to whom it is addressed that the OFT is of the opinion mentioned in subsection (5) and that it intends to extend the preliminary assessment period.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (9).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (4): in definition "working day" in para (c) words "European Union" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 4(1).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(b), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[34B Power to request information in referred cases]

[34B Power to request information in referred cases]

[(1) In a case mentioned in section 34A(1), the OFT may by notice to any of the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned request him to provide the OFT with such information as the OFT may require for the purpose of making a decision for the purposes of section 34A(2).

(2) The notice shall state--

- (a) the information required;
- (b) the period within which the information is to be provided;
- (c) the manner (if any) in which the information is required to be provided; and
- (d) the possible consequences--
 - (i) of not providing the information within the stated period; and
 - (ii) if a manner for its provision is stated in the notice, of not providing it in that manner.]

NOTES**Amendment**

Inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (9).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(b), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/35 Questions to be decided in relation to completed mergers

Determination of references**35 Questions to be decided in relation to completed mergers**

(1) Subject to subsections (6) and (7) and section 127(3), the Commission shall, on a reference under section 22, decide the following questions--

- (a) whether a relevant merger situation has been created; and
- (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

(2) For the purposes of this Part there is an anti-competitive outcome if--

- (a) a relevant merger situation has been created and the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services; or
- (b) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation and the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

(3) The Commission shall, if it has decided on a reference under section 22 that there is an anti-competitive outcome (within the meaning given by subsection (2)(a)), decide the following additional questions--

- (a) whether action should be taken by it under section 41(2) for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the substantial lessening of competition concerned or any adverse effect which has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the substantial lessening of competition;
- (b) whether it should recommend the taking of action by others for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the substantial lessening of competition concerned or any adverse effect which has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the substantial lessening of competition; and
- (c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.

(4) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsection (3) the Commission shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the substantial lessening of competition and any adverse effects resulting from it.

(5) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsection (3) the Commission may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned.

(6) In relation to the question whether a relevant merger situation has been created, a reference under section 22 may be framed so as to require the Commission to exclude from consideration--

- (a) subsection (1) of section 23;
- (b) subsection (2) of that section; or
- (c) one of those subsections if the Commission finds that the other is satisfied.

(7) In relation to the question whether any such result as is mentioned in section 23(2)(b) has arisen, a reference under section 22 may be framed so as to require the Commission to confine its investigation to the supply of goods or services in a part of the United Kingdom specified in the reference.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 11.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/36 Questions to be decided in relation to anticipated mergers

36 Questions to be decided in relation to anticipated mergers

(1) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) and section 127(3), the Commission shall, on a reference under section 33, decide the following questions--

(a) whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and

(b) if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

(2) The Commission shall, if it has decided on a reference under section 33 that there is an anti-competitive outcome (within the meaning given by section 35(2)(b)), decide the following additional questions--

(a) whether action should be taken by it under section 41(2) for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the substantial lessening of competition concerned or any adverse effect which may be expected to result from the substantial lessening of competition;

(b) whether it should recommend the taking of action by others for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the substantial lessening of competition concerned or any adverse effect which may be expected to result from the substantial lessening of competition; and

(c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.

(3) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsection (2) the Commission shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the substantial lessening of competition and any adverse effects resulting from it.

(4) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsection (2) the Commission may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned.

(5) In relation to the question whether a relevant merger situation will be created, a reference under section 33 may be framed so as to require the Commission to exclude from consideration--

(a) subsection (1) of section 23;

(b) subsection (2) of that section; or

(c) one of those subsections if the Commission finds that the other is satisfied.

(6) In relation to the question whether any such result as is mentioned in section 23(2)(b) will arise, a reference under section 33 may be framed so as to require the Commission to confine its investigation to the supply of goods or services in a part of the United Kingdom specified in the reference.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 11.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/37 Cancellation and variation of references under section 22 or 33

37 Cancellation and variation of references under section 22 or 33

(1) The Commission shall cancel a reference under section 33 if it considers that the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in the reference has been abandoned.

(2) The Commission may, if it considers that doing so is justified by the facts (including events occurring on or after the making of the reference concerned), treat a reference made under section 22 or 33 as if it had been made under section 33 or (as the case may be) 22; and, in such cases, references in this Part to references under those sections shall, so far as may be necessary, be construed accordingly.

(3) Where, by virtue of subsection (2), the Commission treats a reference made under section 22 or 33 as if it had been made under section 33 or (as the case may be) 22, sections 77 to 81 shall, in particular, apply as if the reference had been made under section 33 or (as the case may be) 22 instead of under section 22 or 33.

(4) Subsection (5) applies in relation to any undertaking accepted under section 80, or any order made under section 81, which is in force immediately before the Commission, by virtue of subsection (2), treats a reference made under section 22 or 33 as if it had been made under section 33 or (as the case may be) 22.

(5) The undertaking or order shall, so far as applicable, continue in force as if--

(a) in the case of an undertaking or order which relates to a reference made under section 22, accepted or made in relation to a reference made under section 33; and

(b) in the case of an undertaking or order which relates to a reference made under section 33, accepted or made in relation to a reference made under section 22;

and the undertaking or order concerned may be varied, superseded, released or revoked accordingly.

- (6) The OFT may at any time vary a reference under section 22 or 33.
- (7) The OFT shall consult the Commission before varying any such reference.
- (8) Subsection (7) shall not apply if the Commission has requested the variation concerned.
- (9) No variation by the OFT under this section shall be capable of altering the period permitted by section 39 within which the report of the Commission under section 38 is to be prepared and published.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1)-(6) thereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 12.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/38 Investigations and reports on references under section 22 or 33

38 Investigations and reports on references under section 22 or 33

- (1) The Commission shall prepare and publish a report on a reference under section 22 or 33 within the period permitted by section 39.
- (2) The report shall, in particular, contain--
 - (a) the decisions of the Commission on the questions which it is required to answer by virtue of section 35 or (as the case may be) 36;
 - (b) its reasons for its decisions; and
 - (c) such information as the Commission considers appropriate for facilitating a proper understanding of those questions and of its reasons for its decisions.
- (3) The Commission shall carry out such investigations as it considers appropriate for the purposes of preparing a report under this section.
- (4) The Commission shall, at the same time as a report prepared under this section is published, give it to the OFT.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (2) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 13.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/39 Time-limits for investigations and reports

39 Time-limits for investigations and reports

(1) The Commission shall prepare and publish its report under section 38 within the period of 24 weeks beginning with the date of the reference concerned.

(2) ...

(3) The Commission may extend, by no more than 8 weeks, the period within which a report under section 38 is to be prepared and published if it considers that there are special reasons why the report cannot be prepared and published within that period.

(4) The Commission may extend the period within which a report under section 38 is to be prepared and published if it considers that a relevant person has failed (whether with or without a reasonable excuse) to comply with any requirement of a notice under section 109.

(5) In subsection (4) "relevant person" means--

(a) any person carrying on any of the enterprises concerned;

(b) any person who (whether alone or as a member of a group) owns or has control of any such person; or

(c) any officer, employee or agent of any person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).

(6) For the purposes of subsection (5) a person or group of persons able, directly or indirectly, to control or materially to influence the policy of a body of persons corporate or unincorporate, but without having a controlling interest in that body of persons, may be treated as having control of it.

(7) An extension under subsection (3) or (4) shall come into force when published under section 107.

(8) An extension under subsection (4) shall continue in force until--

(a) the person concerned provides the information or documents to the satisfaction of the Commission or (as the case may be) appears as a witness in accordance with the requirements of the Commission;

or

(b) the Commission publishes its decision to cancel the extension.

(9) References in this Part to the date of a reference shall be construed as references to the date specified in the reference as the date on which it is made.

(10) This section is subject to section 40.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (10).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/40 Section 39: supplementary

40 Section 39: supplementary

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) A period extended under subsection (3) of section 39 may also be extended under subsection (4) of that section and a period extended under subsection (4) of that section may also be extended under subsection (3) of that section.

(4) No more than one extension is possible under section 39(3).

(5) Where a period within which a report under section 38 is to be prepared and published is extended or further extended under section 39(3) or (4), the period as extended or (as the case may be) further extended shall, subject to subsections (6) and (7), be calculated by taking the period being extended and adding to it the period of the extension (whether or not those periods overlap in time).

(6) Subsection (7) applies where—

(a) the period within which the report under section 38 is to be prepared and published is further

extended;

(b) the further extension and at least one previous extension is made under section 39(4); and

(c) the same days or fractions of days are included in or comprise the further extension and are included in or comprise at least one such previous extension.

(7) In calculating the period of the further extension, any days or fractions of days of the kind mentioned in subsection (6)(c) shall be disregarded.

(8) The Secretary of State may by order amend section 39 so as to alter any one or more of the following periods--

(a) the period of 24 weeks mentioned in subsection (1) of that section or any period for the time being mentioned in that subsection in substitution for that period;

(b) . . .

(c) the period of 8 weeks mentioned in subsection (3) of that section or any period for the time being mentioned in that subsection in substitution for that period.

(9) No alteration shall be made by virtue of subsection (8) which results in the period for the time being mentioned in subsection (1) . . . of section 39 exceeding 24 weeks or the period for the time being mentioned in subsection (3) of that section exceeding 8 weeks.

(10) An order under subsection (8) shall not affect any period of time within which the Commission is under a duty to prepare and publish its report under section 38 in relation to a reference under section 22 or 33 if the Commission is already under that duty in relation to that reference when the order is made.

(11) Before making an order under subsection (8) the Secretary of State shall consult the Commission and such other persons as he considers appropriate.

(12) The Secretary of State may make regulations for the purposes of section 39(8).

(13) The regulations may, in particular--

(a) provide for the time at which information or documents are to be treated as provided (including the time at which they are to be treated as provided to the satisfaction of the Commission for the purposes of section 39(8));

(b) provide for the time at which a person is to be treated as appearing as a witness (including the time at which he is to be treated as appearing as a witness in accordance with the requirements of the Commission for the purposes of section 39(8));

(c) provide for the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be, or may cease to be, distinct enterprises to be informed, in circumstances in which section 39(8) applies, of the fact that--

(i) the Commission is satisfied as to the provision of the information or documents required by it; or

(ii) the person concerned has appeared as a witness in accordance with the requirements of the Commission;

(d) provide for the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be, or may cease to be, distinct enterprises to be informed, in circumstances in which section 39(8) applies, of the time at which the Commission is to be treated as satisfied as mentioned in paragraph (c)(i) above or the person concerned is to be treated as having appeared as mentioned in paragraph (c)(ii) above.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-ss (1), (2): repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (11)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (8): para (b) repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (11)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (9): words omitted repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (11)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (10) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 14.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/41 Duty to remedy effects of completed or anticipated mergers

41 Duty to remedy effects of completed or anticipated mergers

(1) Subsection (2) applies where a report of the Commission has been prepared and published under section 38 within the period permitted by section 39 and contains the decision that there is an anti-competitive outcome.

(2) The Commission shall take such action under section 82 or 84 as it considers to be reasonable and practicable—

(a) to remedy, mitigate or prevent the substantial lessening of competition concerned; and

(b) to remedy, mitigate or prevent any adverse effects which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the substantial lessening of competition.

(3) The decision of the Commission under subsection (2) shall be consistent with its decisions as included in its report by virtue of section 35(3) or (as the case may be) 36(2) unless there has been a material change of circumstances since the preparation of the report or the Commission otherwise has a special reason for deciding differently.

(4) In making a decision under subsection (2), the Commission shall, in particular, have regard to the

need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the substantial lessening of competition and any adverse effects resulting from it.

(5) In making a decision under subsection (2), the Commission may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1)-(3), (5) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 15. See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/42 Intervention by Secretary of State in certain public interest cases

Chapter 2 Public Interest Cases

Power to make references

42 Intervention by Secretary of State in certain public interest cases

(1) Subsection (2) applies where--

- (a) the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created or that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation;
- (b) no reference under section 22 or 33 has been made in relation to the relevant merger situation concerned;
- (c) no decision has been made not to make such a reference (other than a decision made by virtue of subsection (2)(b) of section 33 or a decision to accept undertakings under section 73 instead of making such a reference); and
- (d) no reference is prevented from being made under section 22 or 33 by virtue of--
 - (i) section 22(3)(a) or (e) or (as the case may be) 33(3)(a) or (e); or

(ii) [EU] law or anything done under or in accordance with it.

(2) The Secretary of State may give a notice to the OFT (in this Part "an intervention notice") if he believes that it is or may be the case that one or more than one public interest consideration is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned.

(3) For the purposes of this Part a public interest consideration is a consideration which, at the time of the giving of the intervention notice concerned, is specified in section 58 or is not so specified but, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, ought to be so specified.

(4) No more than one intervention notice shall be given under subsection (2) in relation to the same relevant merger situation.

(5) For the purposes of deciding whether a relevant merger situation has been created or whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation, sections 23 to 32 (read together with section 34) shall apply for the purposes of this Chapter as they do for the purposes of Chapter 1 but subject to subsection (6).

(6) In their application by virtue of subsection (5) sections 23 to 32 shall have effect as if--

(a) for paragraph (a) of section 23(9) there were substituted--

"(a) in relation to the giving of an intervention notice, the time when the notice is given;

(aa) in relation to the making of a report by the OFT under section 44, the time of the making of the report;

(ab) in the case of a reference which is treated as having been made under section 45(2) or (3) by virtue of section 49(1), such time as the Commission may determine; and";

(b) the references to the OFT in sections 25(1) to (3), (6) and (8) and 31 included references to the Secretary of State;

(c) the references to the OFT in section 25(4) and (5) were references to the Secretary of State;

(d) the reference in section 25(4) to section 73 were a reference to paragraph 3 of Schedule 7;

(e) after section 25(5) there were inserted--

"(5A) The Secretary of State may by notice to the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be distinct enterprises extend the four month period mentioned in section 24(1)(a) or (2)(b) if, by virtue of section 46(5) or paragraph 3(6) of Schedule 7, he decides to delay a decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45.

(5B) An extension under subsection (5A) shall be for the period of the delay.";

(f) in section 25(10)(b) after the word "(4)" there were inserted ", (5A)";

(g) the reference in section 25(12) to one extension were a reference to one extension by the OFT and one extension by the Secretary of State;

(h) the powers to extend time-limits under section 25 as applied by subsection (5) above, and the power to request information under section 31(1) as so applied, were not exercisable by the OFT or the Secretary of State before the giving of an intervention notice but the existing time-limits in relation to possible references under section 22 or 33 were applicable for the purposes of the giving of that notice;

(i) the existing time-limits in relation to possible references under section 22 or 33 (except for

extensions under section 25(4)) remained applicable on and after the giving of an intervention notice as if any extensions were made under section 25 as applied by subsection (5) above but subject to further alteration by the OFT or the Secretary of State under section 25 as so applied;

(j) in subsection (1) of section 31 for the words "section 22" there were substituted "section 45(2) or (3)" and, in the application of that subsection to the OFT, for the word "deciding" there were substituted "enabling the Secretary of State to decide";

(k) in the case of the giving of intervention notices, the references in sections 23 to 32 to the making of a reference or a reference were, so far as necessary, references to the giving of an intervention notice or an intervention notice; and

(l) the references to the OFT in section 32(2)(a) to (c) and (3) were construed in accordance with the above modifications.

(7) Where the Secretary of State has given an intervention notice mentioning a public interest consideration which, at that time, is not finalised, he shall, as soon as practicable, take such action as is within his power to ensure that it is finalised.

(8) For the purposes of this Part a public interest consideration is finalised if--

(a) it is specified in section 58 otherwise than by virtue of an order under subsection (3) of that section; or

(b) it is specified in that section by virtue of an order under subsection (3) of that section and the order providing for it to be so specified has been laid before, and approved by, Parliament in accordance with subsection (7) of section 124 and within the period mentioned in that subsection.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): in para (d)(ii) reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/43 Intervention notices under section 42

43 Intervention notices under section 42

- (1) An intervention notice shall state--
- (a) the relevant merger situation concerned;
 - (b) the public interest consideration or considerations which are, or may be, relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned; and
 - (c) where any public interest consideration concerned is not finalised, the proposed timetable for finalising it.
- (2) Where the Secretary of State believes that it is or may be the case that two or more public interest considerations are relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned, he may decide not to mention in the intervention notice such of those considerations as he considers appropriate.
- (3) An intervention notice shall come into force when it is given and shall cease to be in force when the matter to which it relates is finally determined under this Chapter.
- (4) For the purposes of this Part, a matter to which an intervention notice relates is finally determined under this Chapter if--
- (a) the time within which the OFT [or (if relevant) OFCOM] is to report to the Secretary of State under section 44 [or (as the case may be) 44A] has expired and no such report has been made;
 - (b) the Secretary of State decides to accept an undertaking or group of undertakings under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 instead of making a reference under section 45;
 - (c) the Secretary of State otherwise decides not to make a reference under that section;
 - (d) the Commission cancels such a reference under section 48(1) or 53(1);
 - (e) the time within which the Commission is to prepare a report under section 50 and give it to the Secretary of State has expired and no such report has been prepared and given to the Secretary of State;
 - (f) the time within which the Secretary of State is to make and publish a decision under section 54(2) has expired and no such decision has been made and published;
 - (g) the Secretary of State decides under section 54(2) to make no finding at all in the matter;
 - (h) the Secretary of State otherwise decides under section 54(2) not to make an adverse public interest finding;
 - (i) the Secretary of State decides under section 54(2) to make an adverse public interest finding but decides neither to accept an undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 nor to make an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule; or
 - (j) the Secretary of State decides under section 54(2) to make an adverse public interest finding and accepts an undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 or makes an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule.
- (5) For the purposes of this Part the time when a matter to which an intervention notice relates is finally determined under this Chapter is--
- (a) in a case falling within subsection (4)(a), (e) or (f), the expiry of the time concerned;
 - (b) in a case falling within subsection (4)(b), the acceptance of the undertaking or group of undertakings concerned;
 - (c) in a case falling within subsection (4)(c), (d), (g) or (h), the making of the decision concerned;
 - (d) in a case falling within subsection (4)(i), the making of the decision neither to accept an

undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 nor to make an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule; and

(e) in a case falling within subsection (4)(j), the acceptance of the undertaking concerned or (as the case may be) the making of the order concerned.

[(6) In this Part "OFCOM" means the Office of Communications.]

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (4): in para (a) words "or (if relevant) OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 8(1), (2)(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): in para (a) words "or (as the case may be) 44A" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 8(1), (2)(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (6): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 8(1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/44 Investigation and report by OFT

44 Investigation and report by OFT

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State has given an intervention notice in relation to a relevant merger situation.

(2) The OFT shall, within such period as the Secretary of State may require, give a report to the Secretary of State in relation to the case.

(3) The report shall contain--

- (a) advice from the OFT on the considerations relevant to the making of a reference under section 22 or 33 which are also relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45; and
- (b) a summary of any representations about the case which have been received by the OFT and which relate to any public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice concerned [(other than a media public interest consideration)] and which is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45.
- (4) The report shall, in particular, include decisions as to whether the OFT believes that it is, or may be, the case that--
- (a) a relevant merger situation has been created or arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation;
- (b) the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services;
- (c) the market or markets concerned would not be of sufficient importance to justify the making of a reference to the Commission under section 22 or 33;
- (d) in the case of arrangements which are in progress or in contemplation, the arrangements are not sufficiently far advanced, or not sufficiently likely to proceed, to justify the making of such a reference;
- (e) any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned outweigh the substantial lessening of competition and any adverse effects of the substantial lessening of competition; or
- (f) it would be appropriate to deal with the matter (disregarding any public interest considerations mentioned in the intervention notice concerned) by way of undertakings under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7.
- (5) If the OFT believes that it is or may be the case that it would be appropriate to deal with the matter (disregarding any public interest considerations mentioned in the intervention notice concerned) by way of undertakings under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7, the report shall contain descriptions of the undertakings which the OFT believes are, or may be, appropriate.
- [(5A) The report may, in particular, contain a summary of any representations about the case which have been received by the OFT and which relate to any media public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice concerned and which is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45.]
- (6) The report may, in particular, include advice and recommendations on any public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice concerned and which is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45.
- (7) The OFT shall carry out such investigations as it considers appropriate for the purposes of producing a report under this section.
- [(8) In this Part "media public interest consideration" means any consideration which, at the time of the giving of the intervention notice concerned--
- (a) is specified in section 58(2A) to (2C); or
- (b) in the opinion of the Secretary of State, is concerned with broadcasting or newspapers and ought to be specified in section 58.
- (9) In this Part "broadcasting" means the provision of services the provision of which--
- (a) is required to be licensed under Part 1 or 3 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 or Part 1 or 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1996; or

(b) would be required to be so licensed if provided by a person subject to licensing under the Part in question.

(10) In this Part "newspaper" means a daily, Sunday or local (other than daily or Sunday) newspaper circulating wholly or mainly in the United Kingdom or in a part of the United Kingdom.

(11) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsections (9) and (10).]

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (3): in para (b) words "(other than a media public interest consideration)" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 376(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (5A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 376(2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-ss (8)-(11): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 376(3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[44A Additional investigation and report by OFCOM: media mergers]

[44A Additional investigation and report by OFCOM: media mergers]

[(1) Subsection (2) applies where--

- (a) the Secretary of State has given an intervention notice in relation to a relevant merger situation; and
- (b) the intervention notice mentions any media public interest consideration.

(2) OFCOM shall, within such period as the Secretary of State may require, give a report to the Secretary of State on the effect of the consideration or considerations concerned on the case.

(3) The report shall contain--

(a) advice and recommendations on any media public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice concerned and which is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45; and

(b) a summary of any representations about the case which have been received by OFCOM and which relate to any such consideration.

(4) OFCOM shall carry out such investigations as they consider appropriate for the purposes of producing a report under this section.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 377.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/45 Power of Secretary of State to refer matter to Commission

45 Power of Secretary of State to refer matter to Commission

(1) Subsections (2) to (5) apply where the Secretary of State--

(a) has given an intervention notice in relation to a relevant merger situation; and

(b) has received a report of the OFT under section 44[, and any report of OFCOM which is required by virtue of section 44A,] in relation to the matter.

(2) The Secretary of State may make a reference to the Commission if he believes that it is or may be the case that--

(a) a relevant merger situation has been created;

(b) the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services;

(c) one or more than one public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned; and

(d) taking account only of the substantial lessening of competition and the relevant public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.

(3) The Secretary of State may make a reference to the Commission if he believes that it is or may be

the case that--

- (a) a relevant merger situation has been created;
- (b) the creation of that situation has not resulted, and may be expected not to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services;
- (c) one or more than one public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned; and
- (d) taking account only of the relevant public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.

(4) The Secretary of State may make a reference to the Commission if he believes that it is or may be the case that--

- (a) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation;
- (b) the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services;
- (c) one or more than one public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned; and
- (d) taking account only of the substantial lessening of competition and the relevant public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of the relevant merger situation may be expected to operate against the public interest.

(5) The Secretary of State may make a reference to the Commission if he believes that it is or may be the case that--

- (a) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation;
- (b) the creation of that situation may be expected not to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services;
- (c) one or more than one public interest consideration mentioned in the intervention notice is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned; and
- (d) taking account only of the relevant public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of the relevant merger situation may be expected to operate against the public interest.

(6) For the purposes of this Chapter any anti-competitive outcome shall be treated as being adverse to the public interest unless it is justified by one or more than one public interest consideration which is relevant.

(7) This section is subject to section 46.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): in para (b) words ", and any report of OFCOM which is required by virtue of section 44A," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 9.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/46 References under section 45: supplementary

46 References under section 45: supplementary

(1) No reference shall be made under section 45 if--

(a) the making of the reference is prevented by section . . . 74(1) or 96(3) or paragraph 4 of Schedule 7; . . .

(b) the European Commission is considering a request made, in relation to the matter concerned, by the United Kingdom (whether alone or with others) under article [22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation], is proceeding with the matter in pursuance of such a request or has dealt with the matter in pursuance of such a request; or

(c) subject to subsection (1A), a reasoned submission requesting referral to the European Commission has been submitted to the European Commission under article 4(5) of the EC Merger Regulation.].

[(1A) Subsection (1)(c) shall cease to apply if the Secretary of State is informed that a Member State competent to examine the concentration under its national competition law has, within the time permitted by Article 4(5) of the EC Merger Regulation, expressed its disagreement as regards the request to refer the case to the European Commission; and this subsection shall be construed in accordance with that Regulation.]

(2) The Secretary of State, in deciding whether to make a reference under section 45, shall accept the decisions of the OFT included in its report by virtue of subsection (4) of section 44 and any descriptions of undertakings as mentioned in subsection (5) of that section.

(3) Where the decision to make a reference under section 45 is made at any time on or after the end of the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the intervention notice concerned, the Secretary of State shall, in deciding whether to make such a reference, disregard any public interest consideration which is mentioned in the intervention notice but which has not been finalised before the end of that period.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), where the decision to make a reference under section 45(2) or (4) is made at any time before the end of the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the intervention notice concerned, the Secretary of State shall, in deciding whether to make such a reference, disregard any public interest consideration which is mentioned in the intervention notice but which has not been finalised if its effect would be to prevent, or to help to prevent, an anti-competitive outcome from being adverse to the public interest.

(5) The Secretary of State may, if he believes that there is a realistic prospect of the public interest consideration mentioned in subsection (4) being finalised within the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the intervention notice concerned, delay deciding whether to make the reference concerned until the public interest consideration is finalised or, if earlier, the period expires.

- (6) A reference under section 45 shall, in particular, specify--
- (a) the subsection of that section under which it is made;
 - (b) the date on which it is made; and
 - (c) the public interest consideration or considerations mentioned in the intervention notice concerned which the Secretary of State is not under a duty to disregard by virtue of subsection (3) above and which he believes are or may be relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): in para (a) reference omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (1): in para (a) second word omitted repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (12)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (1): in para (b) words "22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (12)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (1): para (c) and word "or" immediately preceding it inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (13).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (1A): inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (14).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and

Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[46A Cases referred by the European Commission where intervention notice is in force]

[Cases referred by European Commission under the EC Merger Regulation]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (15).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

[46A Cases referred by the European Commission where intervention notice is in force]

[(1) Subsection (2) applies if the European Commission has by a decision referred the whole or part of a case to the OFT under Article 4(4) or 9 of the EC Merger Regulation, or is deemed to have taken such a decision, and an intervention notice is in force in relation to that case.

(2) Before the end of the preliminary assessment period, the Secretary of State shall--

- (a) decide whether to make a reference to the Commission under section 45; and
- (b) inform the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned by notice of that decision and of the reasons for it.

(3) The Secretary of State may, for the purposes of subsection (2), decide not to make a reference on the basis that he is considering whether to seek or accept undertakings under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 instead of making a reference; but a decision taken on that basis does not prevent the Secretary of State from making a reference under section 45 in the event of no such undertakings being offered or accepted.

(4) In this section--

"the preliminary assessment period" means, subject to section 46B, the period of 45 working days beginning with the day after the day on which the decision of the European Commission to refer the case is taken (or is deemed to have been taken); and

"working day" means any day which is not--

- (a) a Saturday;
- (b) a Sunday; or
- (c) a day which is a European Commission holiday (as published in the Official Journal of the [European Union] before the beginning of the year in which it occurs).]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (15).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (4): in definition "working day" in para (c) words "European Union" in square brackets substituted by

SI 2011/1043, art 4(1).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[46B Extension of preliminary assessment period]

[46B Extension of preliminary assessment period]

[(1) If the OFT has imposed a requirement under section 46C and it considers that the person on whom that requirement was imposed has failed to comply with it, the OFT may, by notice to the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned, extend the preliminary assessment period.

(2) If the Secretary of State has imposed a requirement under section 46C and he considers that the person on whom that requirement was imposed has failed to comply with it, he may, by notice to the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned, extend the preliminary assessment period.

(3) The period of an extension under this section shall--

(a) begin with the end of the period within which the requirement under section 46C could be complied with; and

(b) end with--

(i) in the case of a notice under subsection (1), the earlier of either compliance with the requirement to the satisfaction of the OFT or cancellation by the OFT of the extension.

(ii) in the case of a notice under subsection (2), the earlier of either compliance with the requirement to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State or cancellation by him of the extension.

(4) A notice under this section shall--

(a) be given within 5 working days of the end of the period mentioned in subsection (3)(a); and

(b) inform the person to whom it is addressed--

(i) in the case of a notice under subsection (1), that the OFT is of the opinion mentioned in that subsection and that it intends to extend the preliminary assessment period.

(ii) in the case of a notice under subsection (2), that the Secretary of State is of the opinion mentioned in that subsection and that he intends to extend the preliminary assessment period.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (15).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[46C Power to request information in referred cases]

[46C Power to request information in referred cases]

[(1) In a case mentioned in section 46A(1), the OFT may by notice to any of the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned request him to provide the OFT with such information as the OFT may require for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of State to make a decision for the purposes of section 46A(2).

(2) In such a case, the Secretary of State may by notice to any of the persons carrying on the enterprises concerned request him to provide the Secretary of State with such information as he may require for the purpose of enabling him to make a decision for the purposes of section 46A(2).

(3) A notice under subsection (1) or (2) shall state--

- (a) the information required;
- (b) the period within which the information is to be provided; and
- (c) the manner (if any) in which the information is required to be provided; and
- (d) the possible consequences--
 - (i) of not providing the information within the stated period; and
 - (ii) if a manner for its provision is stated in the notice, of not providing it in that manner.]

NOTES**Amendment**

Inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (15).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/47 Questions to be decided on references under section 45

Reports on references

47 Questions to be decided on references under section 45

- (1) The Commission shall, on a reference under section 45(2) or (3), decide whether a relevant merger situation has been created.
- (2) If the Commission decides that such a situation has been created, it shall, on a reference under section 45(2), decide the following additional questions--
 - (a) whether the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services; and
 - (b) whether, taking account only of any substantial lessening of competition and the admissible public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.
- (3) If the Commission decides that a relevant merger situation has been created, it shall, on a reference under section 45(3), decide whether, taking account only of the admissible public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.
- (4) The Commission shall, on a reference under section 45(4) or (5), decide whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation.
- (5) If the Commission decides that such arrangements are in progress or in contemplation, it shall, on a reference under section 45(4), decide the following additional questions--
 - (a) whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services; and
 - (b) whether, taking account only of any substantial lessening of competition and the admissible public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation may be expected to operate against the public interest.
- (6) If the Commission decides that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation, it shall, on a reference under section 45(5), decide whether, taking account only of the admissible public interest consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation may be expected to operate against the public interest.
- (7) The Commission shall, if it has decided on a reference under section 45 that the creation of a relevant merger situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest, decide the following additional questions--
 - (a) whether action should be taken by the Secretary of State under section 55 for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing any of the effects adverse to the public interest which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the creation of the relevant merger situation;
 - (b) whether the Commission should recommend the taking of other action by the Secretary of State or action by persons other than itself and the Secretary of State for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing any of the effects adverse to the public interest which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the creation of the relevant merger situation; and
 - (c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.
- (8) Where the Commission has decided by virtue of subsection (2)(a) or (5)(a) that there is or will be a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services, it shall also decide separately the following questions (on the assumption that it is proceeding as mentioned in section 56(6))--
 - (a) whether action should be taken by it under section 41 for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the substantial lessening of competition concerned or any adverse effect which has resulted

from, or may be expected to result from, the substantial lessening of competition;

(b) whether the Commission should recommend the taking of action by other persons for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the substantial lessening of competition concerned or any adverse effect which has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the substantial lessening of competition; and

(c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.

(9) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsections (7) and (8) the Commission shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to--

(a) the adverse effects to the public interest; or

(b) (as the case may be) the substantial lessening of competition and any adverse effects resulting from it.

(10) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsections (7) and (8) in a case where it has decided by virtue of subsection (2)(a) or (5)(a) that there is or will be a substantial lessening of competition, the Commission may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned.

(11) In this section "admissible public interest consideration" means any public interest consideration which is specified in the reference under section 45 and which the Commission is not under a duty to disregard.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/48 Cases where references or certain questions need not be decided

48 Cases where references or certain questions need not be decided

(1) The Commission shall cancel a reference under section 45(4) or (5) if it considers that the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in that reference has been abandoned.

(2) In relation to the question whether a relevant merger situation has been created or the question whether a relevant merger situation will be created, a reference under section 45 may be framed so as to require the Commission to exclude from consideration--

(a) subsection (1) of section 23;

- (b) subsection (2) of that section; or
- (c) one of those subsections if the Commission finds that the other is satisfied.

(3) In relation to the question whether any such result as is mentioned in section 23(2)(b) has arisen or the question whether any such result will arise, a reference under section 45 may be framed so as to require the Commission to confine its investigation to the supply of goods or services in a part of the United Kingdom specified in the reference.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/49 Variation of references under section 45

49 Variation of references under section 45

(1) The Commission may, if it considers that doing so is justified by the facts (including events occurring on or after the making of the reference concerned), treat--

- (a) a reference made under subsection (2) or (3) of section 45 as if it had been made under subsection (4) or (as the case may be) (5) of that section; or
- (b) a reference made under subsection (4) or (5) of section 45 as if it had been made under subsection (2) or (as the case may be) (3) of that section;

and, in such cases, references in this Part to references under those enactments shall, so far as may be necessary, be construed accordingly.

(2) Where, by virtue of subsection (1), the Commission treats a reference made under subsection (2) or (3) of section 45 as if it had been made under subsection (4) or (as the case may be) (5) of that section, paragraphs 1, 2, 7 and 8 of Schedule 7 shall, in particular, apply as if the reference had been made under subsection (4) or (as the case may be) (5) of that section instead of under subsection (2) or (3) of that section.

(3) Where, by virtue of subsection (1), the Commission treats a reference made under subsection (4) or (5) of section 45 as if it had been made under subsection (2) or (as the case may be) (3) of that section, paragraphs 1, 2, 7 and 8 of Schedule 7 shall, in particular, apply as if the reference had been made under subsection (2) or (as the case may be) (3) of that section instead of under subsection (4) or (5) of that section.

(4) Subsection (5) applies in relation to any undertaking accepted under paragraph 1 of Schedule 7, or

any order made under paragraph 2 of that Schedule, which is in force immediately before the Commission, by virtue of subsection (1), treats a reference as mentioned in subsection (1).

(5) The undertaking or order shall, so far as applicable, continue in force as if--

(a) in the case of an undertaking or order which relates to a reference under subsection (2) or (3) of section 45, accepted or made in relation to a reference made under subsection (4) or (as the case may be) (5) of that section; and

(b) in the case of an undertaking or order which relates to a reference made under subsection (4) or (5) of that section, accepted or made in relation to a reference made under subsection (2) or (as the case may be) (3) of that section;

and the undertaking or order concerned may be varied, superseded, released or revoked accordingly.

(6) The Secretary of State may at any time vary a reference under section 45.

(7) The Secretary of State shall consult the Commission before varying any such reference.

(8) Subsection (7) shall not apply if the Commission has requested the variation concerned.

(9) No variation by the Secretary of State under this section shall be capable of altering the public interest consideration or considerations specified in the reference or the period permitted by section 51 within which the report of the Commission under section 50 is to be prepared and given to the Secretary of State.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/50 Investigations and reports on references under section 45

50 Investigations and reports on references under section 45

(1) The Commission shall prepare a report on a reference under section 45 and give it to the Secretary of State within the period permitted by section 51.

(2) The report shall, in particular, contain--

(a) the decisions of the Commission on the questions which it is required to answer by virtue of section 47;

(b) its reasons for its decisions; and

(c) such information as the Commission considers appropriate for facilitating a proper understanding of those questions and of its reasons for its decisions.

[(2A) Where the report relates to a reference under section 45 which has been made after a report of OFCOM under section 44A, the Commission shall give a copy of its report (whether or not published) to OFCOM.]

(3) The Commission shall carry out such investigations as it considers appropriate for the purpose of producing a report under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 10.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/51 Time-limits for investigations and reports by Commission

51 Time-limits for investigations and reports by Commission

(1) The Commission shall prepare its report under section 50 and give it to the Secretary of State under that section within the period of 24 weeks beginning with the date of the reference concerned.

(2) ...

(3) The Commission may extend, by no more than 8 weeks, the period within which a report under section 50 is to be prepared and given to the Secretary of State if it considers that there are special reasons why the report cannot be prepared and given to the Secretary of State within that period.

(4) The Commission may extend the period within which a report under section 50 is to be prepared and given to the Secretary of State if it considers that a relevant person has failed (whether with or without a reasonable excuse) to comply with any requirement of a notice under section 109.

(5) In subsection (4) "relevant person" means--

(a) any person carrying on any of the enterprises concerned;

(b) any person who (whether alone or as a member of a group) owns or has control of any such person; or

(c) any officer, employee or agent of any person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).

(6) For the purposes of subsection (5) a person or group of persons able, directly or indirectly, to control or materially to influence the policy of a body of persons corporate or unincorporate, but without having a controlling interest in that body of persons, may be treated as having control of it.

(7) An extension under subsection (3) or (4) shall come into force when published under section 107.

(8) An extension under subsection (4) shall continue in force until--

(a) the person concerned provides the information or documents to the satisfaction of the Commission or (as the case may be) appears as a witness in accordance with the requirements of the Commission; or

(b) the Commission publishes its decision to cancel the extension.

(9) This section is subject to sections 52 and 53.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (16).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/52 Section 51: supplementary

52 Section 51: supplementary

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) A period extended under subsection (3) of section 51 may also be extended under subsection (4) of that section and a period extended under subsection (4) of that section may also be extended under

subsection (3) of that section.

(4) No more than one extension is possible under section 51(3).

(5) Where a period within which a report under section 50 is to be prepared and given to the Secretary of State is extended or further extended under section 51(3) or (4), the period as extended or (as the case may be) further extended shall, subject to subsections (6) and (7), be calculated by taking the period being extended and adding to it the period of the extension (whether or not those periods overlap in time).

(6) Subsection (7) applies where--

(a) the period within which the report under section 50 is to be prepared and given to the Secretary of State is further extended;

(b) the further extension and at least one previous extension is made under section 51(4); and

(c) the same days or fractions of days are included in or comprise the further extension and are included in or comprise at least one such previous extension.

(7) In calculating the period of the further extension, any days or fractions of days of the kind mentioned in subsection (6)(c) shall be disregarded.

(8) The Secretary of State may by order amend section 51 so as to alter any one or more of the following periods--

(a) the period of 24 weeks mentioned in subsection (1) of that section or any period for the time being mentioned in that subsection in substitution for that period;

(b) . . .

(c) the period of 8 weeks mentioned in subsection (3) of that section or any period for the time being mentioned in that subsection in substitution for that period.

(9) No alteration shall be made by virtue of subsection (8) which results in the period for the time being mentioned in subsection (1) . . . of section 51 exceeding 24 weeks or the period for the time being mentioned in subsection (3) of that section exceeding 8 weeks.

(10) An order under subsection (8) shall not affect any period of time within which the Commission is under a duty to prepare and give to the Secretary of State its report under section 50 in relation to a reference under section 45 if the Commission is already under that duty in relation to that reference when the order is made.

(11) Before making an order under subsection (8) the Secretary of State shall consult the Commission and such other persons as he considers appropriate.

(12) The Secretary of State may make regulations for the purposes of section 51(8).

(13) The regulations may, in particular--

(a) provide for the time at which information or documents are to be treated as provided (including the time at which they are to be treated as provided to the satisfaction of the Commission for the purposes of section 51(8));

(b) provide for the time at which a person is to be treated as appearing as a witness (including the time at which he is to be treated as appearing as a witness in accordance with the requirements of the Commission for the purposes of section 51(8));

(c) provide for the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be, or may cease to be, distinct enterprises to be informed, in circumstances in which section 51(8) applies, of the fact that--

(i) the Commission is satisfied as to the provision of the information or documents required by it; or

(ii) the person concerned has appeared as a witness in accordance with the requirements of the Commission;

(d) provide for the persons carrying on the enterprises which have or may have ceased to be, or may cease to be, distinct enterprises to be informed, in circumstances in which section 51(8) applies, of the time at which the Commission is to be treated as satisfied as mentioned in paragraph (c)(i) above or the person concerned is to be treated as having appeared as mentioned in paragraph (c)(ii) above.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-ss (1), (2): repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (17)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (8): para (b) repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (17)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (9): words omitted repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (17)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/53 Restrictions on action where public interest considerations not finalised

53 Restrictions on action where public interest considerations not finalised

(1) The Commission shall cancel a reference under section 45 if—

- (a) the intervention notice concerned mentions a public interest consideration which was not finalised on the giving of that notice or public interest considerations which, at that time, were not finalised;
- (b) no other public interest consideration is mentioned in the notice;

(c) at least 24 weeks has elapsed since the giving of the notice; and

(d) the public interest consideration mentioned in the notice has not been finalised within that period of 24 weeks or (as the case may be) none of the public interest considerations mentioned in the notice has been finalised within that period of 24 weeks.

(2) Where a reference to the Commission under section 45 specifies a public interest consideration which has not been finalised before the making of the reference, the Commission shall not give its report to the Secretary of State under section 50 in relation to that reference unless--

(a) the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the intervention notice concerned has expired; [or]

(b) the public interest consideration concerned has been finalised; . . .

(c)

(3) The Commission shall, in reporting on any of the questions mentioned in section 47(2)(b), (3), (5)(b), (6) and (7), disregard any public interest consideration which has not been finalised before the giving of the report.

(4) The Commission shall, in reporting on any of the questions mentioned in section 47(2)(b), (3), (5)(b), (6) and (7), disregard any public interest consideration which was not finalised on the giving of the intervention notice concerned and has not been finalised within the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the notice concerned.

(5) Subsections (1) to (4) are without prejudice to the power of the Commission to carry out investigations in relation to any public interest consideration to which it might be able to have regard in its report.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): in sub-para (a) word "or" in square brackets inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2 (1), (18)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (2): in para (b) word omitted repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (18)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (2): para (c) repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (18)(c).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/54 Decision of Secretary of State in public interest cases

Decisions of the Secretary of State**54 Decision of Secretary of State in public interest cases**

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State has received a report of the Commission under section 50 in relation to a relevant merger situation.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall decide whether to make an adverse public interest finding in relation to the relevant merger situation and whether to make no finding at all in the matter.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part the Secretary of State makes an adverse public interest finding in relation to a relevant merger situation if, in relation to that situation, he decides--
 - (a) in connection with a reference to the Commission under subsection (2) of section 45, that it is the case as mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of that subsection or subsection (3) of that section;
 - (b) in connection with a reference to the Commission under subsection (3) of that section, that it is the case as mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of that subsection;
 - (c) in connection with a reference to the Commission under subsection (4) of that section, that it is the case as mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of that subsection or subsection (5) of that section; and
 - (d) in connection with a reference to the Commission under subsection (5) of that section, that it is the case as mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of that subsection.
- (4) The Secretary of State may make no finding at all in the matter only if he decides that there is no public interest consideration which is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall make and publish his decision under subsection (2) within the period of 30 days beginning with the receipt of the report of the Commission under section 50.
- (6) In making a decision under subsections (2) to (4), the Secretary of State shall disregard any public interest consideration not specified in the reference under section 45 and any public interest consideration disregarded by the Commission for the purposes of its report.
- (7) In deciding whether to make an adverse public interest finding under subsection (2), the Secretary of State shall accept--
 - (a) in connection with a reference to the Commission under section 45(2) or (4), the decision of the report of the Commission under section 50 as to whether there is an anti-competitive outcome; and
 - (b) in connection with a reference to the Commission under section 45(3) or (5)--
 - (i) the decision of the report of the Commission under section 50 as to whether a relevant merger situation has been created or (as the case may be) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
 - (ii) the decision of the report of the OFT under section 44 as to the absence of a substantial lessening of competition.

- (8) In determining for the purposes of subsection (5) the period of 30 days no account shall be taken of--
- (a) Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day; and
 - (b) any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/55 Enforcement action by Secretary of State

55 Enforcement action by Secretary of State

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State has decided under subsection (2) of section 54 within the period required by subsection (5) of that section to make an adverse public interest finding in relation to a relevant merger situation and has published his decision within the period so required.
- (2) The Secretary of State may take such action under paragraph 9 or 11 of Schedule 7 as he considers to be reasonable and practicable to remedy, mitigate or prevent any of the effects adverse to the public interest which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned.
- (3) In making a decision under subsection (2) the Secretary of State shall, in particular, have regard to the report of the Commission under section 50.
- (4) In making a decision under subsection (2) in any case of a substantial lessening of competition, the Secretary of State may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/56 Competition cases where intervention on public interest grounds ceases

Other**56 Competition cases where intervention on public interest grounds ceases**

- (1) Where the Secretary of State decides not to make a reference under section 45 on the ground that no public interest consideration to which he is able to have regard is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned, he shall by notice require the OFT to deal with the matter otherwise than under this Chapter.
- (2) Where a notice is given to the OFT in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1), the OFT shall decide whether to make a reference under section 22 or 33; and any time-limits in relation to the Secretary of State's decision whether to make a reference under section 45 (including any remaining powers of extension) shall apply in relation to the decision of the OFT whether to make a reference under section 22 or 33.
- (3) Where the Commission cancels under section 53(1) a reference under section 45 and the report of the OFT under section 44 contains the decision that it is or may be the case that there is an anti-competitive outcome in relation to the relevant merger situation concerned, the Commission shall proceed under this Part as if a reference under section 22 or (as the case may be) 33 had been made to it by the OFT.
- (4) In proceeding by virtue of subsection (3) to prepare and publish a report under section 38, the Commission shall proceed as if--
- (a) the reference under section 22 or 33 had been made at the same time as the reference under section 45;
 - (b) the timetable for preparing and giving its report under section 50 (including any remaining powers of extension and as extended by an additional period of 20 days) were the timetable for preparing and publishing its report under section 38; and
 - (c) in relation to the question whether a relevant merger situation has been created or the question whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation, the Commission were confined to the questions on the subject to be investigated by it under section 47.
- (5) In determining the period of 20 days mentioned in subsection (4) no account shall be taken of--
- (a) Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day; and
 - (b) any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales.
- (6) Where the Secretary of State decides under section 54(2) to make no finding at all in the matter in connection with a reference under section 45(2) or (4), the Commission shall proceed under this Part as if a reference under section 22 or (as the case may be) 33 had been made to it instead of a reference under section 45 and as if its report to the Secretary of State under section 50 had been prepared and published

by it under section 38 within the period permitted by section 39.

(7) In relation to proceedings by virtue of subsection (6), the reference in section 41(3) to decisions of the Commission as included in its report by virtue of section 35(3) or 36(2) shall be construed as a reference to decisions which were included in the report of the Commission by virtue of section 47(8).

(8) Where the Commission becomes under a duty to proceed as mentioned in subsection (3) or (6), references in this Part to references under sections 22 and 33 shall, so far as may be necessary, be construed accordingly; and, in particular, sections 77 to 81 shall apply as if a reference has been made to the Commission by the OFT under section 22 or (as the case may be) 33.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/57 Duties of OFT and Commission to inform Secretary of State

57 Duties of OFT and Commission to inform Secretary of State

(1) The OFT shall, in considering whether to make a reference under section 22 or 33, bring to the attention of the Secretary of State any case which it believes raises any consideration specified in section 58 unless it believes that the Secretary of State would consider any such consideration immaterial in the context of the particular case.

(2) The OFT[, OFCOM] and the Commission shall bring to the attention of the Secretary of State any representations about exercising his powers under section 58(3) which have been made to the OFT[, OFCOM] or (as the case may be) the Commission.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): reference to ", OFCOM" in square brackets in both places it occurs inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 11.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/58 Specified considerations

58 Specified considerations

(1) The interests of national security are specified in this section.

(2) In subsection (1) "national security" includes public security; and in this subsection "public security" has the same meaning as in article [21(4) of the EC Merger Regulation].

[(2A) The need for--

- (a) accurate presentation of news; and
- (b) free expression of opinion;

in newspapers is specified in this section.

(2B) The need for, to the extent that it is reasonable and practicable, a sufficient plurality of views in newspapers in each market for newspapers in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom is specified in this section.

(2C) The following are specified in this section--

- (a) the need, in relation to every different audience in the United Kingdom or in a particular area or locality of the United Kingdom, for there to be a sufficient plurality of persons with control of the media enterprises serving that audience;
- (b) the need for the availability throughout the United Kingdom of a wide range of broadcasting which (taken as a whole) is both of high quality and calculated to appeal to a wide variety of tastes and interests; and
- (c) the need for persons carrying on media enterprises, and for those with control of such enterprises, to have a genuine commitment to the attainment in relation to broadcasting of the standards objectives set out in section 319 of the Communications Act 2003.]

[(2D) The interest of maintaining the stability of the UK financial system is specified in this section (other than for the purposes of sections 67 and 68 or references made, or deemed to be made, by the European Commission to the OFT under article 4(4) or 9 of the EC Merger Regulation).]

(3) The Secretary of State may by order modify this section for the purpose of specifying in this section a new consideration or removing or amending any consideration which is for the time being specified in this section.

(4) An order under this section may, in particular--

- (a) provide for a consideration to be specified in this section for a particular purpose or purposes or for all purposes;

(b) apply in relation to cases under consideration by the OFT, [OFCOM,] the Commission or the Secretary of State before the making of the order as well as cases under consideration on or after the making of the order.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): words "21(4) of the EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (19).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-ss (2A)-(2C): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 375(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (2D): inserted by SI 2008/2645, art 2.

Date in force: 24 October 2008: see SI 2008/2645, art 1(1); for transitional provisions see art 1 (2) thereof.

Sub-s (4): in para (b) reference to "OFCOM," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 12.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

Enterprise Act 2002 (Specification of Additional Section 58 Consideration) Order 2008, SI 2008/2645 (made under sub-ss (3), (4)).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[58A Construction of consideration specified in section 58(2C)]

[58A Construction of consideration specified in section 58(2C)]

[(1) For the purposes of section 58 and this section an enterprise is a media enterprise if it consists in or involves broadcasting.

(2) In the case of a merger situation in which at least one of the enterprises ceasing to be distinct consists in or involves broadcasting, the references in section 58(2C)(a) or this section to media enterprises include references to newspaper enterprises.

(3) In this Part "newspaper enterprise" means an enterprise consisting in or involving the supply of newspapers.

(4) Wherever in a merger situation two media enterprises serving the same audience cease to be distinct, the number of such enterprises serving that audience shall be assumed to be more immediately before they cease to be distinct than it is afterwards.

(5) For the purposes of section 58, where two or more media enterprises--

(a) would fall to be treated as under common ownership or common control for the purposes of section 26, or

(b) are otherwise in the same ownership or under the same control,

they shall be treated (subject to subsection (4)) as all under the control of only one person.

(6) A reference in section 58 or this section to an audience shall be construed in relation to a media enterprise in whichever of the following ways the decision-making authority considers appropriate--

(a) as a reference to any one of the audiences served by that enterprise, taking them separately;

(b) as a reference to all the audiences served by that enterprise, taking them together;

(c) as a reference to a number of those audiences taken together in such group as the decision-making authority considers appropriate; or

(d) as a reference to a part of anything that could be taken to be an audience under any of paragraphs (a) to (c) above.

(7) The criteria for deciding who can be treated for the purposes of this section as comprised in an audience, or as comprised in an audience served by a particular service--

(a) shall be such as the decision-making authority considers appropriate in the circumstances of the case; and

(b) may allow for persons to be treated as members of an audience if they are only potentially members of it.

(8) In this section "audience" includes readership.

(9) The power under subsection (3) of section 58 to modify that section includes power to modify this section.]

NOTES**Amendment**

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 375(2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley pic Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley pic Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/59 Intervention by Secretary of State in special public interest cases

Chapter 3 Other Special Cases

Special public interest cases

59 Intervention by Secretary of State in special public interest cases

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that a special merger situation has been created or arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation.

(2) The Secretary of State may give a notice to the OFT (in this Part "a special intervention notice") if he believes that it is or may be the case that one or more than one consideration specified in section 58 is relevant to a consideration of the special merger situation concerned.

[(3) For the purposes of this Part a special merger situation has been created if--

- (a) the condition mentioned in subsection (3A) is satisfied; and
- (b) immediately before the enterprises concerned ceased to be distinct--
 - (i) the conditions mentioned in subsection (3B) were satisfied;
 - (ii) the condition mentioned in subsection (3C) was satisfied; or
 - (iii) the condition mentioned in subsection (3D) was satisfied.

(3A) The condition mentioned in this subsection is that--

- (a) no relevant merger situation has been created because of section 23(1)(b) and (2)(b); but
- (b) a relevant merger situation would have been created if those enactments were disregarded.

(3B) The conditions mentioned in this subsection are that--

- (a) at least one of the enterprises concerned was carried on in the United Kingdom or by or under the control of a body corporate incorporated in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) a person carrying on one or more of the enterprises concerned was a relevant government contractor.

(3C) The condition mentioned in this subsection is that, in relation to the supply of newspapers of any description, at least one-quarter of all the newspapers of that description which were supplied in the United Kingdom, or in a substantial part of the United Kingdom, were supplied by the person or persons by whom one of the enterprises concerned was carried on.

(3D) The condition mentioned in this subsection is that, in relation to the provision of broadcasting of any description, at least one-quarter of all broadcasting of that description provided in the United Kingdom,

or in a substantial part of the United Kingdom, was provided by the person or persons by whom one of the enterprises concerned was carried on.]

(5) For the purposes of deciding whether a relevant merger situation has been created or whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation, sections 23 to 32 (read together with section 34) shall apply for the purposes of this Chapter as they do for the purposes of Chapter 1 but subject to subsection (6).

(6) In their application by virtue of subsection (5) sections 23 to 32 shall have effect as if--

(a) for paragraph (a) of section 23(9) there were substituted--

"(a) in relation to the giving of a special intervention notice, the time when the notice is given;

(aa) in relation to the making of a report by the OFT under section 61, the time of the making of the report;

(ab) in the case of a reference which is treated as having been made under section 62(2) by virtue of section 64(2), such time as the Commission may determine; and";

(b) the references to the OFT in section 24(2)(a) and (b) included references to the Secretary of State;

(c) the references to the OFT in sections 25(1) to (3), (6) and (8) and 31 included references to the Secretary of State;

(d) the references to the OFT in section 25(4) and (5) were references to the Secretary of State;

(e) the reference in section 25(4) to section 73 were a reference to paragraph 3 of Schedule 7;

(f) the reference in section 25(12) to one extension were a reference to one extension by the OFT and one extension by the Secretary of State;

(g) the powers to extend time-limits under section 25 as applied by subsection (5) above, and the power to request information under section 31(1) as so applied, were not exercisable by the OFT or the Secretary of State before the giving of a special intervention notice;

(h) in subsection (1) of section 31 for the words "section 22" there were substituted "section 62(2)" and, in the application of that subsection to the OFT, for the word "deciding" there were substituted "enabling the Secretary of State to decide";

(i) in the case of the giving of special intervention notices, the references in sections 23 to 32 to the making of a reference or a reference were, so far as necessary, references to the giving of a special intervention notice or a special intervention notice; and

(j) the references to the OFT in section 32(2)(a) to (c) and (3) were construed in accordance with the above modifications.

[(6A) The Secretary of State may by order amend the conditions mentioned in subsection (3)(b)(ii) and (iii).]

(7) No more than one special intervention notice shall be given under subsection (2) in relation to the same special merger situation.

(8) In this section "relevant government contractor" means--

(a) a government contractor--

(i) who has been notified by or on behalf of the Secretary of State of information, documents or other articles relating to defence and of a confidential nature which the government contractor or an employee of his may hold or receive in connection with being such a contractor; and

(ii) whose notification has not been revoked by or on behalf of the Secretary of State; or

(b) a former government contractor who was so notified when he was a government contractor and whose notification has not been revoked by or on behalf of the Secretary of State.

(9) In this section--

"defence" has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1989 (c 6); and

"government contractor" has the same meaning as in the Act of 1989 and includes any sub-contractor of a government contractor, any sub-contractor of that sub-contractor and any other sub-contractor in a chain of sub-contractors which begins with the sub-contractor of the government contractor.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-ss (3), (3A)-(3D): substituted, for sub-ss (3), (4) as originally enacted, by the Communications Act 2003, s 378(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (6A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 378(2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[59A Construction of conditions in section 59(3C) and (3D)]

[59A Construction of conditions in section 59(3C) and (3D)]

[(1) For the purpose of deciding whether the proportion of one-quarter mentioned in section 59(3C) or (3D) is fulfilled with respect to--

(a) newspapers of any description, or

(b) broadcasting of any description,

the decision-making authority shall apply such criterion (whether value, cost, price, quantity, capacity, number of workers employed or some other criterion, of whatever nature), or such combination of criteria, as the decision-making authority considers appropriate.

(2) References in section 59(3C) to the supply of newspapers shall, in relation to newspapers of any description which are the subject of different forms of supply, be construed in whichever of the following ways the decision-making authority considers appropriate--

- (a) as references to any of those forms of supply taken separately;
- (b) as references to all those forms of supply taken together; or
- (c) as references to any of those forms of supply taken in groups.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) the decision-making authority may treat newspapers as being the subject of different forms of supply whenever--

- (a) the transactions concerned differ as to their nature, their parties, their terms or their surrounding circumstances; and
- (b) the difference is one which, in the opinion of the decision-making authority, ought for the purposes of that subsection to be treated as a material difference.

(4) References in section 59(3D) to the provision of broadcasting shall, in relation to broadcasting of any description which is the subject of different forms of provision, be construed in whichever of the following ways the decision-making authority considers appropriate--

- (a) as references to any of those forms of provision taken separately;
- (b) as references to all those forms of provision taken together; or
- (c) as references to any of those forms of provision taken in groups.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4) the decision-making authority may treat broadcasting as being the subject of different forms of provision whenever--

- (a) the transactions concerned differ as to their nature, their parties, their terms or their surrounding circumstances; and
- (b) the difference is one which, in the opinion of the decision-making authority, ought for the purposes of that subsection to be treated as a material difference.

(6) The criteria for deciding when newspapers or broadcasting can be treated, for the purposes of section 59, as newspapers or broadcasting of a separate description shall be such as in any particular case the decision-making authority considers appropriate in the circumstances of that case.

(7) In section 59 and this section "provision" and cognate expressions have the same meaning in relation to broadcasting as in Part 3 of the Communications Act 2003; but this subsection is subject to subsections (4) and (5) of this section.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 378(3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/60 Special intervention notices under section 59

60 Special intervention notices under section 59

(1) A special intervention notice shall state--

- (a) the special merger situation concerned; and
- (b) the consideration specified in section 58 or considerations so specified which are, or may be, relevant to the special merger situation concerned.

(2) Where the Secretary of State believes that it is or may be the case that two or more considerations specified in section 58 are relevant to a consideration of the special merger situation concerned, he may decide not to mention in the special intervention notice such of those considerations as he considers appropriate.

(3) A special intervention notice shall come into force when it is given and shall cease to be in force when the matter to which it relates is finally determined under this Chapter.

(4) For the purposes of this Part, a matter to which a special intervention notice relates is finally determined under this Chapter if--

- (a) the time within which the OFT [or (if relevant) OFCOM] is to report to the Secretary of State under section 61 [or (as the case may be) 61A] has expired and no such report has been made;
- (b) the Secretary of State decides to accept an undertaking or group of undertakings under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 instead of making a reference under section 62;
- (c) the Secretary of State otherwise decides not to make a reference under that section;
- (d) the Commission cancels such a reference under section 64(1);
- (e) the time within which the Commission is to prepare a report under section 65 and give it to the Secretary of State has expired and no such report has been prepared and given to the Secretary of State;
- (f) the time within which the Secretary of State is to make and publish a decision under section 66(2) has expired and no such decision has been made and published;
- (g) the Secretary of State decides under subsection (2) of section 66 otherwise than as mentioned in subsection (5) of that section;
- (h) the Secretary of State decides under subsection (2) of section 66 as mentioned in subsection (5) of that section but decides neither to accept an undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 nor to make an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule; or
- (i) the Secretary of State decides under subsection (2) of section 66 as mentioned in subsection (5) of that section and accepts an undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 or makes an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule.

(5) For the purposes of this Part the time when a matter to which a special intervention notice relates is finally determined under this Chapter is--

- (a) in a case falling within subsection (4)(a), (e) or (f), the expiry of the time concerned;

- (b) in a case falling within subsection (4)(b), the acceptance of the undertaking or group of undertakings concerned;
- (c) in a case falling within subsection (4)(c), (d) or (g), the making of the decision concerned;
- (d) in a case falling within subsection (4)(h), the making of the decision neither to accept an undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 nor to make an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule; and
- (e) in a case falling within subsection (4)(i), the acceptance of the undertaking concerned or (as the case may be) the making of the order concerned.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (4): in para (a) words "or (if relevant) OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 13(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): in para (a) words "or (as the case may be) 61A" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 13(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/61 Initial investigation and report by OFT

61 Initial investigation and report by OFT

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State has given a special intervention notice in relation to a special merger situation.
- (2) The OFT shall, within such period as the Secretary of State may require, give a report to the Secretary of State in relation to the case.
- (3) The report shall contain--

(a) advice from the OFT on the considerations relevant to the making of a reference under section 22 or 33 which are also relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 62; and

(b) a summary of any representations about the case which have been received by the OFT and which relate to any consideration mentioned in the special intervention notice concerned [(other than a consideration which, at the time of the giving of the notice, was specified in section 58(2A) to (2C))] and which is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 62.

(4) The report shall include a decision as to whether the OFT believes (disregarding section [59(3B)(b)]) that it is, or may be, the case that a special merger situation has been created or (as the case may be) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation.

[(4A) The report may, in particular, contain a summary of any representations about the case which have been received by the OFT and which relate to any consideration which--

(a) is mentioned in the special intervention notice concerned and, at the time of the giving of that notice, was specified in section 58(2A) to (2C); and

(b) is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 62.]

(5) The report may, in particular, include advice and recommendations on any consideration mentioned in the special intervention notice concerned and which is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 62.

(6) The OFT shall carry out such investigations as it considers appropriate for the purposes of producing a report under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (3): in para (b) words "(other than a consideration which, at the time of the giving of the notice, was specified in section 58(2A) to (2C))" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 379 (1), (2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): reference to "59(3B)(b)" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 379 (1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 379(1), (4).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[61A Additional investigation and report by OFCOM: certain media mergers]

[61A Additional investigation and report by OFCOM: certain media mergers]

[(1) Subsection (2) applies where—

(a) the Secretary of State has given a special intervention notice in relation to a special merger situation; and

(b) the special intervention notice mentions any consideration which, at the time of the giving of the notice, was specified in section 58(2A) to (2C).

(2) OFCOM shall, within such period as the Secretary of State may require, give a report to the Secretary of State on the effect of the consideration or considerations concerned on the case.

(3) The report shall contain--

(a) advice and recommendations on any consideration which--

(i) is mentioned in the special intervention notice concerned and, at the time of the giving of that notice, was specified in section 58(2A) to (2C); and

(ii) is or may be relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to make a reference under section 62; and

(b) a summary of any representations about the case which have been received by OFCOM and which relate to any such consideration.

(4) OFCOM shall carry out such investigations as they consider appropriate for the purposes of producing a report under this section.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 380.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/62 Power of Secretary of State to refer the matter

62 Power of Secretary of State to refer the matter

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State--
- (a) has given a special intervention notice in relation to a special merger situation; and
 - (b) has received a report of the OFT under section 61[, and any report of OFCOM which is required by virtue of section 61A,] in relation to the matter.
- (2) The Secretary of State may make a reference to the Commission if he believes that it is or may be the case that--
- (a) a special merger situation has been created;
 - (b) one or more than one consideration mentioned in the special intervention notice is relevant to a consideration of the special merger situation concerned; and
 - (c) taking account only of the relevant consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.
- (3) The Secretary of State may make a reference to the Commission if he believes that it is or may be the case that--
- (a) arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation;
 - (b) one or more than one consideration mentioned in the special intervention notice is relevant to a consideration of the special merger situation concerned; and
 - (c) taking account only of the relevant consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation may be expected to operate against the public interest.
- (4) No reference shall be made under this section if the making of the reference is prevented by . . . paragraph 4 of Schedule 7.
- (5) The Secretary of State, in deciding whether to make a reference under this section, shall accept the decision of the OFT included in its report under section 61 by virtue of subsection (4) of that section.
- (6) A reference under this section shall, in particular, specify--
- (a) the subsection of this section under which it is made;
 - (b) the date on which it is made; and
 - (c) the consideration or considerations mentioned in the special intervention notice which the Secretary of State believes are, or may be, relevant to a consideration of the special merger situation concerned.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): in para (b) words ", and any report of OFCOM which is required by virtue of section 61A," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 14.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): words omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/63 Questions to be decided on references under section 62

63 Questions to be decided on references under section 62

- (1) The Commission shall, on a reference under section 62(2), decide whether a special merger situation has been created.
- (2) The Commission shall, on a reference under section 62(3), decide whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation.
- (3) If the Commission decides that a special merger situation has been created or that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation, it shall, on a reference under section 62, decide whether, taking account only of the consideration or considerations mentioned in the reference, the creation of that situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.
- (4) The Commission shall, if it has decided on a reference under section 62 that the creation of a special merger situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest, decide the following additional questions--
 - (a) whether action should be taken by the Secretary of State under section 66 for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing any of the effects adverse to the public interest which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the creation of the special merger situation concerned;
 - (b) whether the Commission should recommend the taking of other action by the Secretary of State or action by persons other than itself and the Secretary of State for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing any of the effects adverse to the public interest which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the creation of the special merger situation concerned; and
 - (c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.

NOTES

Initial Commencement*To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/64 Cancellation and variation of references under section 62

64 Cancellation and variation of references under section 62

- (1) The Commission shall cancel a reference under section 62(3) if it considers that the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in that reference has been abandoned.
- (2) The Commission may, if it considers that doing so is justified by the facts (including events occurring on or after the making of the reference concerned), treat a reference made under subsection (2) or (3) of section 62 as if it had been made under subsection (3) or (as the case may be) (2) of that section; and, in such cases, references in this Part to references under those enactments shall, so far as may be necessary, be construed accordingly.
- (3) Where, by virtue of subsection (2), the Commission treats a reference made under subsection (2) or (3) of section 62 as if it had been made under subsection (3) or (as the case may be) (2) of that section, paragraphs 1, 2, 7 and 8 of Schedule 7 shall, in particular, apply as if the reference had been made under subsection (3) or (as the case may be) (2) of that section instead of under subsection (2) or (3) of that section.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies in relation to any undertaking accepted under paragraph 1 of Schedule 7, or any order made under paragraph 2 of that Schedule, which is in force immediately before the Commission, by virtue of subsection (2), treats a reference made under subsection (2) or (3) of section 62 as if it had been made under subsection (3) or (as the case may be) (2) of that section.
- (5) The undertaking or order shall, so far as applicable, continue in force as if--
 - (a) in the case of an undertaking or order which relates to a reference under subsection (2) of section 62, accepted or made in relation to a reference made under subsection (3) of that section; and
 - (b) in the case of an undertaking or order which relates to a reference made under subsection (3) of that section, accepted or made in relation to a reference made under subsection (2) of that section;
 and the undertaking or order concerned may be varied, superseded, released or revoked accordingly.
- (6) The Secretary of State may at any time vary a reference under section 62.
- (7) The Secretary of State shall consult the Commission before varying any such reference.
- (8) Subsection (7) shall not apply if the Commission has requested the variation concerned.
- (9) No variation by the Secretary of State under this section shall be capable of altering the consideration or considerations specified in the reference or the period permitted by virtue of section 65

within which the report of the Commission under that section is to be prepared and given to the Secretary of State.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/65 Investigations and reports on references under section 62

65 Investigations and reports on references under section 62

(1) The Commission shall prepare a report on a reference under section 62 and give it to the Secretary of State within the period permitted by virtue of this section.

(2) The report shall, in particular, contain--

(a) the decisions of the Commission on the questions which it is required to answer by virtue of section 63;

(b) its reasons for its decisions; and

(c) such information as the Commission considers appropriate for facilitating a proper understanding of those questions and of its reasons for its decisions.

[(2A) Where the report relates to a reference under section 62 which has been made after a report of OFCOM under section 61A, the Commission shall give a copy of its report (whether or not published) to OFCOM.]

(3) Sections 51 and 52 (but not section 53) shall apply for the purposes of a report under this section as they apply for the purposes of a report under section 50.

(4) The Commission shall carry out such investigations as it considers appropriate for the purpose of producing a report under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 15.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/66 Decision and enforcement action by Secretary of State

66 Decision and enforcement action by Secretary of State

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State has received a report of the Commission under section 65 in relation to a special merger situation.

(2) The Secretary of State shall, in connection with a reference under section 62(2) or (3), decide the questions which the Commission is required to decide by virtue of section 63(1) to (3).

(3) The Secretary of State shall make and publish his decision under subsection (2) within the period of 30 days beginning with the receipt of the report of the Commission under section 65; and subsection (8) of section 54 shall apply for the purposes of this subsection as it applies for the purposes of subsection (5) of that section.

(4) In making his decisions under subsection (2), the Secretary of State shall accept the decisions of the report of the Commission under section 65 as to whether a special merger situation has been created or whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation.

(5) Subsection (6) applies where the Secretary of State has decided under subsection (2) that--

(a) a special merger situation has been created or arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation;

(b) at least one consideration which is mentioned in the special intervention notice concerned is relevant to a consideration of the special merger situation concerned; and

(c) taking account only of the relevant consideration or considerations concerned, the creation of that situation operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest;

and has so decided, and published his decision, within the period required by subsection (3).

(6) The Secretary of State may take such action under paragraph 9 or 11 of Schedule 7 as he considers to be reasonable and practicable to remedy, mitigate or prevent any of the effects adverse to the public interest which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the creation of the special merger situation concerned.

(7) In making a decision under subsection (6), the Secretary of State shall, in particular, have regard to the report of the Commission under section 65.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/67 Intervention to protect legitimate interests

European mergers**67 Intervention to protect legitimate interests**

(1) Subsection (2) applies where--

(a) the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that--

(i) a relevant merger situation has been created or that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and

(ii) a concentration with a Community dimension (within the meaning of the [EC Merger Regulation]), or a part of such a concentration, has thereby arisen or will thereby arise;

(b) a reference . . . is prevented from being made under [section 22 or 33] in relation to the relevant merger situation concerned [(whether or not there would otherwise have been a duty to make such a reference)] by virtue of [EU] law or anything done under or in accordance with it; and

(c) the Secretary of State is considering whether to take appropriate measures to protect legitimate interests as permitted by article [21(4) of the EC Merger Regulation].

(2) The Secretary of State may give a notice to the OFT (in this section "a European intervention notice") if he believes that it is or may be the case that one or more than one public interest consideration is relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned.

(3) A European intervention notice shall state--

(a) the relevant merger situation concerned;

(b) the public interest consideration or considerations which are, or may be, relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned; and

(c) where any public interest consideration concerned is not finalised, the proposed timetable for finalising it.

(4) Where the Secretary of State believes that it is or may be the case that two or more public interest considerations are relevant to a consideration of the relevant merger situation concerned, he may decide

not to mention in the intervention notice such of those considerations as he considers appropriate.

(5) No more than one European intervention notice shall be given under subsection (2) in relation to the same relevant merger situation.

(6) Where the Secretary of State has given a European intervention notice mentioning a public interest consideration which, at that time, is not finalised, he shall, as soon as practicable, take such action as is within his power to ensure that it is finalised.

(7) For the purposes of deciding whether a relevant merger situation has been created or whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation, sections 23 to 32 (read together with section 34) shall apply for the purposes of this section as they do for the purposes of Chapter 1 but subject to subsection (8).

(8) In their application by virtue of subsection (7) sections 23 to 32 shall have effect as if--

(a) references in those sections to the decision-making authority were references to the Secretary of State;

(b) for paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 23(9) there were substituted ", in relation to the giving of a European intervention notice, the time when the notice is given";

(c) the references to the OFT in section 24(2)(a) and (b) included references to the Secretary of State;

(d) sections 25, 31 and 32 were omitted; and

(e) the references in sections 23 to 29 to the making of a reference or a reference were, so far as necessary, references to the giving of a European intervention notice or a European intervention notice.

(9) Section 42(3) shall, in its application to this section and section 68, have effect as if for the words "intervention notice" there were substituted "European intervention notice".

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): in sub-para (a)(ii) words "EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (20)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (1): in para (b) words omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 389(1), 406(7), Sch 16, para 16(a), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (1): in para (b) words "section 22 or 33" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 16(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (1): in para (b) words "(whether or not there would otherwise have been a duty to make such a reference)" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 16(c).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (1): in para (b) reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

Sub-s (1): in para (c) words "21(4) of the EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (2)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/68 Scheme for protecting legitimate interests

68 Scheme for protecting legitimate interests

(1) The Secretary of State may by order provide for the taking of action, where a European intervention notice has been given, to remedy, mitigate or prevent effects adverse to the public interest which have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the creation of a European relevant merger situation.

(2) In subsection (1) "European relevant merger situation" means a relevant merger situation--

(a) which has been created or will be created if arrangements which are in progress or in contemplation are carried into effect;

(b) by virtue of which a concentration with a Community dimension (within the meaning of the [EC Merger Regulation]), or a part of such a concentration, has arisen or will arise; and

(c) in relation to which a reference . . . was prevented from being made under [section 22 or 33 (whether or not there would otherwise have been a duty to make such a reference)] by virtue of [EU] law or anything done under or in accordance with it.

(3) Provision made under subsection (1) shall include provision ensuring that considerations which are not public interest considerations mentioned in the European intervention notice concerned may not be taken into account in determining whether anything operates, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

(4) Provision made under subsection (1) shall include provision--

(a) applying with modifications sections 23 to 32 for the purposes of deciding for the purposes of this section whether a relevant merger situation has been created or whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation;

- (b) requiring the OFT to make a report to the Secretary of State before a reference is made;
- (c) enabling the Secretary of State to make a reference to the Commission;
- (d) requiring the Commission to investigate and report to the Secretary of State on such a reference;
- (e) enabling the taking of interim and final enforcement action.

(5) An order under this section may include provision (including provision for the creation of offences and penalties, the payment of fees and the delegation of functions) corresponding to any provision made in, or in connection with, this Part in relation to intervention notices or special intervention notices and the cases to which they relate.

(6) In this section "European intervention notice" has the same meaning as in section 67.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): in para (b) words "EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (21).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (2): in para (c) words omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 360(3), 406(7), Sch 16, para 17(a), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (2): in para (c) words "section 22 or 33 (whether or not there would otherwise have been a duty to make such a reference)" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 17(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (2): in para (c) reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(d), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc

Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/69 . . .

Other

69 . . .

. . .

NOTES

Amendment

Repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 374, 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/70 Water mergers

70 Water mergers

(1) For sections 32 to 35 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (c 56) (special provision for water merger references) there shall be substituted--

"32 Duty to refer merger of water or sewerage undertaking

Subject to section 33 below, it shall be the duty of the OFT to make a merger reference to the Competition Commission if the OFT believes that it is or may be the case--

- (a) that arrangements are in progress which, if carried into effect, will result in a merger of any two or more water enterprises; or
- (b) that such a merger has taken place otherwise than as a result of the carrying into effect of arrangements that have been the subject of a reference by virtue of paragraph (a) above.

33 Exclusion of small mergers from duty to make reference

(1) The OFT shall not make a merger reference under section 32 above in respect of any actual or prospective merger of two or more water enterprises if it appears to the OFT--

- (a) that the value of the turnover of the water enterprise being taken over does not exceed or, as the case may be, would not exceed £10 million; or
- (b) that the only water enterprises already belonging to the person making the take over are enterprises each of which has a turnover the value of which does not exceed or, as the case may be, would not exceed £10 million.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a) above, the value of the turnover of the water enterprise being taken over shall be determined by taking the total value of the turnover of the water enterprises ceasing to be distinct enterprises and deducting--

- (a) the turnover of any water enterprise continuing to be carried on under the same ownership and control; or

- (b) if there is no water enterprise continuing to be carried on under the same ownership and control, the turnover which, of all the turnovers concerned, is the turnover of the highest value.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b) above--
- (a) every water enterprise ceasing to be a distinct enterprise and whose turnover is to be deducted by virtue of subsection (2)(a) or (b) above shall be treated as a water enterprise belonging to the person making the take over; and
- (b) water enterprises shall be treated as separate enterprises so far as they are carried on by different companies holding appointments under Chapter 1 of this Part.
- (4) For the purposes of this section the turnover of a water enterprise shall be determined in accordance with such provisions as may be specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) above may, in particular, make provision as to--
- (a) the amounts which are, or which are not, to be treated as comprising an enterprise's turnover; and
- (b) the date or dates by reference to which an enterprise's turnover is to be determined.
- (6) Regulations under subsection (4) above may, in particular, make provision enabling the Secretary of State or the OFT to determine matters of a description specified in the regulations (including any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (5) above).
- (7) The Secretary of State may by regulations amend subsection (1) above so as--
- (a) to alter the sum for the time being mentioned in paragraph (a) of that subsection or otherwise to modify the condition set out in that paragraph; or
- (b) to alter the sum for the time being mentioned in paragraph (b) of that subsection or otherwise to modify the condition set out in that paragraph.
- (8) Regulations under subsection (7) above--
- (a) shall not make any modifications in relation to mergers on or before the coming into force of the regulations; and
- (b) may, in particular, include supplemental, consequential or transitional provision amending or repealing any provision of this section.
- (9) References in this section to enterprises being carried on under the same ownership and control shall be construed in accordance with Part 3 of the 2002 Act.

34 Application of provisions of Enterprise Act 2002

The provisions of Schedule 4ZA to this Act shall have effect with respect to mergers of water enterprises.

35 Construction of merger provisions

- (1) In this Chapter (including Schedule 4ZA)--
- "enterprise" has the same meaning as in Part 3 of the 2002 Act; and
- "water enterprise" means an enterprise carried on by a water undertaker.
- (2) References in this Chapter (including Schedule 4ZA), in relation to any two or more enterprises, to the merger of those enterprises are references to those enterprises ceasing, within the meaning of Part 3 of the 2002 Act, to be distinct enterprises; and sections 27 and 29 of that Act and any provision made under section 34 of that Act (time at which enterprises cease to be distinct) shall have effect for the purposes of this Chapter (including Schedule 4ZA) as they have effect for the purposes of that Part.

(3) Nothing in sections 32 to 34 above (including Schedule 4ZA) shall prejudice any power of the OFT or the Secretary of State, in a case in which, or to any extent to which, the OFT is not required to make a reference under section 32 above, to make a reference under Part 3 of the 2002 Act in respect of any actual or prospective merger of two or more water enterprises.

(4) Where two or more enterprises have merged or will merge as part of transactions or arrangements which also involve an actual or prospective merger of two or more water enterprises, Part 3 of the 2002 Act shall apply in relation to the actual or prospective merger of the enterprises concerned excluding the water enterprises; and references in that Part to the creation of a relevant merger situation shall be construed accordingly.

(5) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), Part 3 of the 2002 Act shall not apply in a case in which the OFT is required to make a reference under section 32 above except as applied by virtue of Schedule 4ZA."

(2) Before Schedule 4A to the Act of 1991 there shall be inserted, as Schedule 4ZA, the Schedule set out in Schedule 6 to this Act.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 29 December 2004: see SI 2004/3233, art 2, Schedule; for effect, transitional provisions and savings see arts 3-5 thereof.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/71 Initial undertakings: completed mergers

Chapter 4 Enforcement

Powers exercisable before references under section 22 or 33

71 Initial undertakings: completed mergers

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the OFT is considering whether to make a reference under section 22.

(2) The OFT may, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action, accept from such of the parties concerned as it considers appropriate undertakings to take such action as it considers appropriate.

(3) No undertaking shall be accepted under subsection (2) unless the OFT has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created.

- (4) An undertaking under this section--
- (a) shall come into force when accepted;
 - (b) may be varied or superseded by another undertaking; and
 - (c) may be released by the OFT.
- (5) An undertaking which--
- (a) is in force under this section in relation to a possible reference or reference under section 22; and
 - (b) has not been adopted under section 80 or paragraph 1 of Schedule 7;

shall cease to be in force if an order under section 72 or 81 comes into force in relation to that reference or an order under paragraph 2 of that Schedule comes into force in relation to the matter.

- (6) An undertaking under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force and if it has not been adopted under section 80 or paragraph 1 of Schedule 7, cease to be in force--
- (a) where the OFT has decided to make the reference concerned under section 22, at the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the making of the reference;
 - (b) where the OFT has decided to accept an undertaking under section 73 instead of making that reference, on the acceptance of that undertaking;
 - (c) where an intervention notice is in force, at the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the giving of that notice; and
 - (d) where the OFT has otherwise decided not to make the reference concerned under section 22, on the making of that decision.

(7) The OFT shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or releasing an undertaking under this section.

(8) In this section and section 72 "pre-emptive action" means action which might prejudice the reference concerned or impede the taking of any action under this Part which may be justified by the Commission's decisions on the reference.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 16.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/72 Initial enforcement orders: completed mergers

72 Initial enforcement orders: completed mergers

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the OFT is considering whether to make a reference under section 22.
- (2) The OFT may by order, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action--
- (a) prohibit or restrict the doing of things which the OFT considers would constitute pre-emptive action;
 - (b) impose on any person concerned obligations as to the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets;
 - (c) provide for the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets either by the appointment of a person to conduct or supervise the conduct of any activities (on such terms and with such powers as may be specified or described in the order) or in any other manner;
 - (d) do anything which may be done by virtue of paragraph 19 of Schedule 8.
- (3) No order shall be made under subsection (2) unless the OFT has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that--
- (a) a relevant merger situation has been created; and
 - (b) pre-emptive action is in progress or in contemplation.
- (4) An order under this section--
- (a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order; and
 - (b) may be varied or revoked by another order.
- (5) An order which--
- (a) is in force under this section in relation to a possible reference or a reference under section 22; and
 - (b) has not been adopted under section 81 or paragraph 2 of Schedule 7;
- shall cease to be in force if an undertaking under section 71 or 80 comes into force in relation to that reference or an undertaking under paragraph 1 of that Schedule comes into force in relation to the matter.
- (6) An order under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force and if it is not adopted under section 81 or paragraph 2 of Schedule 7, cease to be in force--
- (a) where the OFT has decided to make the reference concerned under section 22, at the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the making of the reference;
 - (b) where the OFT has decided to accept an undertaking under section 73 instead of making that reference, on the acceptance of that undertaking;
 - (c) where an intervention notice is in force, at the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the giving of that notice; and
 - (d) where the OFT has otherwise decided not to make the reference concerned under section 22, on the making of that decision.

(7) The OFT shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or revoking an order under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (3), (5), (6) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 17.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/73 Undertakings in lieu of references under section 22 or 33

73 Undertakings in lieu of references under section 22 or 33

(1) Subsection (2) applies if the OFT considers that it is under a duty to make a reference under section 22 or 33 (disregarding the operation of section 22(3)(b) or (as the case may be) 33(3)(b) but taking account of the power of the OFT under section 22(2) or (as the case may be) 33(2) to decide not to make such a reference).

(2) The OFT may, instead of making such a reference and for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the substantial lessening of competition concerned or any adverse effect which has or may have resulted from it or may be expected to result from it, accept from such of the parties concerned as it considers appropriate undertakings to take such action as it considers appropriate.

(3) In proceeding under subsection (2), the OFT shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the substantial lessening of competition and any adverse effects resulting from it.

(4) In proceeding under subsection (2), the OFT may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits in relation to the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned.

(5) An undertaking under this section--

- (a) shall come into force when accepted;
- (b) may be varied or superseded by another undertaking; and
- (c) may be released by the OFT.

(6) An undertaking under this section which is in force in relation to a relevant merger situation shall

cease to be in force if an order comes into force under section 75 or 76 in relation to that undertaking.

(7) The OFT shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or releasing an undertaking under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(e), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/74 Effect of undertakings under section 73

74 Effect of undertakings under section 73

(1) The relevant authority shall not make a reference under section 22, 33 or 45 in relation to the creation of a relevant merger situation if--

(a) the OFT has accepted an undertaking or group of undertakings under section 73; and

(b) the relevant merger situation is the situation by reference to which the undertaking or group of undertakings was accepted.

(2) Subsection (1) does not prevent the making of a reference if material facts about relevant arrangements or transactions, or relevant proposed arrangements or transactions, were not notified (whether in writing or otherwise) to the OFT or made public before any undertaking concerned was accepted.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) arrangements or transactions, or proposed arrangements or transactions, are relevant if they are the ones in consequence of which the enterprises concerned ceased or may have ceased, or may cease, to be distinct enterprises.

(4) In subsection (2) "made public" means so publicised as to be generally known or readily ascertainable.

(5) In this section "relevant authority" means--

(a) in relation to a possible reference under section 22 or 33, the OFT; and

(b) in relation to a possible reference under section 45, the Secretary of State.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(e), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/75 Order-making power where undertakings under section 73 not fulfilled etc

75 Order-making power where undertakings under section 73 not fulfilled etc

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the OFT considers that--
- (a) an undertaking accepted by it under section 73 has not been, is not being or will not be fulfilled; or
 - (b) in relation to an undertaking accepted by it under that section, information which was false or misleading in a material respect was given to the OFT by the person giving the undertaking before the OFT decided to accept the undertaking.
- (2) The OFT may, for any of the purposes mentioned in section 73(2), make an order under this section.
- (3) Subsections (3) and (4) of section 73 shall apply for the purposes of subsection (2) above as they apply for the purposes of subsection (2) of that section.
- (4) An order under this section may contain--
- (a) anything permitted by Schedule 8; and
 - (b) such supplementary, consequential or incidental provision as the OFT considers appropriate.
- (5) An order under this section--
- (a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order;
 - (b) may contain provision which is different from the provision contained in the undertaking concerned; and
 - (c) may be varied or revoked by another order.
- (6) The OFT shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or revoking an order under this section.

NOTES**Initial Commencement***To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales; the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(e), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/76 Supplementary interim order-making power

76 Supplementary interim order-making power

(1) Subsection (2) applies where--

- (a) the OFT has the power to make an order under section 75 in relation to a particular undertaking and intends to make such an order; or
- (b) the Commission has the power to make an order under section 83 in relation to a particular undertaking and intends to make such an order.

(2) The OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission may, for the purpose of preventing any action which might prejudice the making of that order, make an order under this section.

(3) No order shall be made under subsection (2) unless the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that action which might prejudice the making of the order under section 75 or (as the case may be) 83 is in progress or in contemplation.

(4) An order under subsection (2) may--

- (a) prohibit or restrict the doing of things which the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission considers would prejudice the making of the order under section 75 or (as the case may be) 83;
- (b) impose on any person concerned obligations as to the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets;
- (c) provide for the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets either by the appointment of a person to conduct or supervise the conduct of any activities (on such terms and with such powers as may be specified or described in the order) or in any other manner;
- (d) do anything which may be done by virtue of paragraph 19 of Schedule 8.

(5) An order under this section--

- (a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order; and
- (b) may be varied or revoked by another order.

(6) An order under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force, cease to be in force on--

- (a) the coming into force of an order under section 75 or (as the case may be) 83 in relation to the undertaking concerned; or

(b) the making of the decision not to proceed with such an order.

(7) The OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or revoking an order under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/77 Restrictions on certain dealings: completed mergers

Interim restrictions and powers

77 Restrictions on certain dealings: completed mergers

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where--

- (a) a reference has been made under section 22 but not finally determined; and
- (b) no undertakings under section 71 or 80 are in force in relation to the relevant merger situation concerned and no orders under section 72 or 81 are in force in relation to that situation.

(2) No relevant person shall, without the consent of the Commission--

- (a) complete any outstanding matters in connection with any arrangements which have resulted in the enterprises concerned ceasing to be distinct enterprises;
- (b) make any further arrangements in consequence of that result (other than arrangements which reverse that result); or
- (c) transfer the ownership or control of any enterprises to which the reference relates.

(3) No relevant person shall, without the consent of the Commission, assist in any of the activities mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (2).

(4) The prohibitions in subsections (2) and (3) do not apply in relation to anything which the person concerned is required to do by virtue of any enactment.

(5) The consent of the Commission under subsection (2) or (3)--

- (a) may be general or special;
 - (b) may be revoked by the Commission; and
 - (c) shall be published in such manner as the Commission considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing it to the attention of any person entitled to the benefit of it.
- (6) Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) shall not apply if the Commission considers that publication is not necessary for the purpose mentioned in that paragraph.
- (7) Subsections (2) and (3) shall apply to a person's conduct outside the United Kingdom if (and only if) he is--
- (a) a United Kingdom national;
 - (b) a body incorporated under the law of the United Kingdom or of any part of the United Kingdom; or
 - (c) a person carrying on business in the United Kingdom.
- (8) In this section "relevant person" means--
- (a) any person who carries on any enterprise to which the reference relates or who has control of any such enterprise;
 - (b) any subsidiary of any person falling within paragraph (a); or
 - (c) any person associated with any person falling within paragraph (a) or any subsidiary of any person so associated.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 18.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/78 Restrictions on certain share dealings: anticipated mergers

78 Restrictions on certain share dealings: anticipated mergers

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where--
- (a) a reference has been made under section 33; and
 - (b) no undertakings under section 80 are in force in relation to the relevant merger situation concerned and no orders under section 81 are in force in relation to that situation.
- (2) No relevant person shall, without the consent of the Commission, directly or indirectly acquire during the relevant period an interest in shares in a company if any enterprise to which the reference relates is carried on by or under the control of that company.
- (3) The consent of the Commission under subsection (2)--
- (a) may be general or special;
 - (b) may be revoked by the Commission; and
 - (c) shall be published in such manner as the Commission considers appropriate for bringing it to the attention of any person entitled to the benefit of it.
- (4) Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) shall not apply if the Commission considers that publication is not necessary for the purpose mentioned in that paragraph.
- (5) Subsection (2) shall apply to a person's conduct outside the United Kingdom if (and only if) he is--
- (a) a United Kingdom national;
 - (b) a body incorporated under the law of the United Kingdom or of any part of the United Kingdom; or
 - (c) a person carrying on business in the United Kingdom.
- (6) In this section and section 79--
- "company" includes any body corporate;
- "relevant period" means the period beginning with the making of the reference concerned and ending when the reference is finally determined;
- "relevant person" means--
- (a) any person who carries on any enterprise to which the reference relates or who has control of any such enterprise;
 - (b) any subsidiary of any person falling within paragraph (a); or
 - (c) any person associated with any person falling within paragraph (a) or any subsidiary of any person so associated; and
- "share" means share in the capital of a company, and includes stock.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 19.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/79 Sections 77 and 78: further interpretation provisions

79 Sections 77 and 78: further interpretation provisions

- (1) For the purposes of this Part a reference under section 22 or 33 is finally determined if--
- (a) the reference is cancelled under section 37(1);
 - (b) the time within which the Commission is to prepare and publish a report under section 38 in relation to the reference has expired and no such report has been prepared and published;
 - (c) the report of the Commission under section 38 contains the decision that there is not an anti-competitive outcome;
 - (d) the report of the Commission under section 38 contains the decision that there is an anti-competitive outcome and the Commission has decided under section 41(2) neither to accept an undertaking under section 82 nor to make an order under section 84; or
 - (e) the report of the Commission under section 38 contains the decision that there is an anti-competitive outcome and the Commission has decided under section 41(2) to accept an undertaking under section 82 or to make an order under section 84.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part the time when a reference under section 22 or 33 is finally determined is--
- (a) in a case falling within subsection (1)(a), the making of the decision concerned;
 - (b) in a case falling within subsection (1)(b), the expiry of the time concerned;
 - (c) in a case falling within subsection (1)(c), the publication of the report;
 - (d) in a case falling within subsection (1)(d), the making of the decision under section 41(2); and
 - (e) in a case falling within subsection (1)(e), the acceptance of the undertaking concerned or (as the case may be) the making of the order concerned.
- (3) For the purposes of section 78 and subject to subsection (4) below, the circumstances in which a person acquires an interest in shares include those where--
- (a) he enters into a contract to acquire the shares (whether or not for cash);
 - (b) he is not the registered holder but acquires the right to exercise, or to control the exercise of, any right conferred by the holding of the shares; or
 - (c) he--

(i) acquires a right to call for delivery of the shares to himself or to his order or to acquire an interest in the shares; or

(ii) assumes an obligation to acquire such an interest.

(4) The circumstances in which a person acquires an interest in shares for the purposes of section 78 do not include those where he acquires an interest in pursuance of an obligation assumed before the publication by the OFT of the reference concerned.

(5) The circumstances in which a person acquires a right mentioned in subsection (3)--

(a) include those where he acquires a right, or assumes an obligation, whose exercise or fulfilment would give him that right; but

(b) do not include those where he is appointed as proxy to vote at a specified meeting of a company or of any class of its members or at any adjournment of the meeting or he is appointed by a corporation to act as its representative at any meeting of the company or of any class of its members.

(6) References to rights and obligations in subsections (3) to (5) include conditional rights and conditional obligations.

(7) References in sections 77 and 78 to a person carrying on or having control of any enterprise includes a group of persons carrying on or having control of an enterprise and any member of such a group.

(8) Sections 26(2) to (4) and 127(1), (2) and (4) to (6) shall apply for the purposes of sections 77 and 78 to determine whether any person or group of persons has control of any enterprise and whether persons are associated as they apply for the purposes of section 26 to determine whether enterprises are brought under common control.

(9) [Section 1159 of, and Schedule 6 to, the Companies Act 2006] shall apply for the purposes of sections 77 and 78 to determine whether a company is a subsidiary of an individual or of a group of persons as they apply to determine whether it is a subsidiary of a company; and references to a subsidiary in [paragraph 8 of Schedule 6] as so applied shall be construed accordingly.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (9): words "Section 1159 of, and Schedule 6 to, the Companies Act 2006" in square brackets substituted by SI 2009/1941, art 2(1), Sch 1, para 199(1), (2)(a).

Date in force: 1 October 2009: see SI 2009/1941, art 1(2).

Sub-s (9): words "paragraph 8 of Schedule 6" in square brackets substituted by SI 2009/1941, art 2(1), Sch 1, para 199(1), (2)(b).

Date in force: 1 October 2009: see SI 2009/1941, art 1(2).

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with effect, in relation to enforcement action in European intervention notice cases: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 13, Sch 2, paras 7, 8.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (2) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 20.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/80 Interim undertakings

80 Interim undertakings

- (1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where a reference under section 22 or 33 has been made but is not finally determined.
- (2) The Commission may, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action, accept from such of the parties concerned as it considers appropriate undertakings to take such action as it considers appropriate.
- (3) The Commission may, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action, adopt an undertaking accepted by the OFT under section 71 if the undertaking is still in force when the Commission adopts it.
- (4) An undertaking adopted under subsection (3)--
 - (a) shall continue in force, in accordance with its terms, when adopted;
 - (b) may be varied or superseded by an undertaking under this section; and
 - (c) may be released by the Commission.
- (5) Any other undertaking under this section--
 - (a) shall come into force when accepted;
 - (b) may be varied or superseded by another undertaking; and
 - (c) may be released by the Commission.
- (6) References in this Part to undertakings under this section shall, unless the context otherwise requires, include references to undertakings adopted under this section; and references to the acceptance or giving of undertakings under this section shall be construed accordingly.
- (7) An undertaking which is in force under this section in relation to a reference under section 22 or 33 shall cease to be in force if an order under section 81 comes into force in relation to that reference.
- (8) An undertaking under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force, cease to be in force when the reference under section 22 or 33 is finally determined.
- (9) The Commission shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or releasing an undertaking under this section.
- (10) In this section and section 81 "pre-emptive action" means action which might prejudice the reference concerned or impede the taking of any action under this Part which may be justified by the

Commission's decisions on the reference.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (7), (8) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 21. See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/81 Interim orders

81 Interim orders

- (1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where a reference has been made under section 22 or 33 but is not finally determined.
- (2) The Commission may by order, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action--
 - (a) prohibit or restrict the doing of things which the Commission considers would constitute pre-emptive action;
 - (b) impose on any person concerned obligations as to the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets;
 - (c) provide for the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets either by the appointment of a person to conduct or supervise the conduct of any activities (on such terms and with such powers as may be specified or described in the order) or in any other manner;
 - (d) do anything which may be done by virtue of paragraph 19 of Schedule 8.
- (3) The Commission may, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action, adopt an order made by the OFT under section 72 if the order is still in force when the Commission adopts it.
- (4) An order adopted under subsection (3)--
 - (a) shall continue in force, in accordance with its terms, when adopted; and
 - (b) may be varied or revoked by an order under this section.
- (5) Any other order under this section--
 - (a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order; and

- (b) may be varied or revoked by another order.
- (6) References in this Part to orders under this section shall, unless the context otherwise requires, include references to orders adopted under this section; and references to the making of orders under this section shall be construed accordingly.
- (7) An order which is in force under this section in relation to a reference under section 22 or 33 shall cease to be in force if an undertaking under section 80 comes into force in relation to that reference.
- (8) An order under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force, cease to be in force when the reference under section 22 or 33 is finally determined.
- (9) The Commission shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or revoking an order under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (7), (8) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 22. See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/82 Final undertakings

Final powers

82 Final undertakings

- (1) The Commission may, in accordance with section 41, accept, from such persons as it considers appropriate, undertakings to take action specified or described in the undertakings.
- (2) An undertaking under this section—
- (a) shall come into force when accepted;
 - (b) may be varied or superseded by another undertaking; and
 - (c) may be released by the Commission.
- (3) An undertaking which is in force under this section in relation to a reference under section 22 or 33

shall cease to be in force if an order under section 76(1)(b) or 83 comes into force in relation to the subject-matter of the undertaking.

(4) No undertaking shall be accepted under this section in relation to a reference under section 22 or 33 if an order has been made under--

- (a) section 76(1)(b) or 83 in relation to the subject-matter of the undertaking; or
- (b) section 84 in relation to that reference.

(5) The Commission shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or releasing an undertaking under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (3), (4) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 23.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/83 Order-making power where final undertakings not fulfilled

83 Order-making power where final undertakings not fulfilled

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Commission considers that--

- (a) an undertaking accepted by it under section 82 has not been, is not being or will not be fulfilled; or
- (b) in relation to an undertaking accepted by it under that section, information which was false or misleading in a material respect was given to the Commission or the OFT by the person giving the undertaking before the Commission decided to accept the undertaking.

(2) The Commission may, for any of the purposes mentioned in section 41(2), make an order under this section.

(3) Subsections (3) to (5) of section 41 shall apply for the purposes of subsection (2) above as they apply for the purposes of subsection (2) of that section.

(4) An order under this section may contain--

- (a) anything permitted by Schedule 8; and

(b) such supplementary, consequential or incidental provision as the Commission considers appropriate.

(5) An order under this section--

(a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order;

(b) may contain provision which is different from the provision contained in the undertaking concerned; and

(c) may be varied or revoked by another order.

(6) No order shall be varied or revoked under this section unless the OFT advises that such a variation or revocation is appropriate by reason of a change of circumstances.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/84 Final orders

84 Final orders

(1) The Commission may, in accordance with section 41, make an order under this section.

(2) An order under this section may contain--

(a) anything permitted by Schedule 8; and

(b) such supplementary, consequential or incidental provision as the Commission considers appropriate.

(3) An order under this section--

(a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order; and

(b) may be varied or revoked by another order.

(4) No order shall be varied or revoked under this section unless the OFT advises that such a variation or revocation is appropriate by reason of a change of circumstances.

(5) No order shall be made under this section in relation to a reference under section 22 or 33 if an

undertaking has been accepted under section 82 in relation to that reference.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (5) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 24.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/85 Enforcement regime for public interest and special public interest cases

Public interest and special public interest cases

85 Enforcement regime for public interest and special public interest cases

(1) Schedule 7 (which provides for the enforcement regime in public interest and special public interest cases) shall have effect.

(2) The OFT may advise the Secretary of State in relation to the taking by him of enforcement action under Schedule 7.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(c), (2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers

and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/86 Enforcement orders: general provisions

Undertakings and orders: general provisions

86 Enforcement orders: general provisions

- (1) An enforcement order may extend to a person's conduct outside the United Kingdom if (and only if) he is--
- (a) a United Kingdom national;
 - (b) a body incorporated under the law of the United Kingdom or of any part of the United Kingdom; or
 - (c) a person carrying on business in the United Kingdom.
- (2) Nothing in an enforcement order shall have effect so as to--
- (a) cancel or modify conditions in licences granted--
 - (i) under a patent granted under the Patents Act 1977 (c 37) or a European patent (UK) (within the meaning of the Act of 1977); or
 - (ii) in respect of a design registered under the Registered Designs Act 1949 (c 88);
 by the proprietor of the patent or design; or
 - (b) require an entry to be made in the register of patents or the register of designs to the effect that licences under such a patent or such a design are to be available as of right.
- (3) An enforcement order may prohibit the performance of an agreement already in existence when the order is made.
- (4) Schedule 8 (which provides for the contents of certain enforcement orders) shall have effect.
- (5) Part 1 of Schedule 9 (which enables certain enforcement orders to modify licence conditions etc in regulated markets) shall have effect.
- (6) In this Part "enforcement order" means an order made under section 72, 75, 76, 81, 83 or 84 or under paragraph 2, 5, 6, 10 or 11 of Schedule 7.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(b), (3).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/87 Delegated power of directions

87 Delegated power of directions

(1) An enforcement order may authorise the person making the order to give directions falling within subsection (2) to--

- (a) a person specified in the directions; or
- (b) the holder for the time being of an office so specified in any body of persons corporate or unincorporate.

(2) Directions fall within this subsection if they are directions--

- (a) to take such action as may be specified or described in the directions for the purpose of carrying out, or ensuring compliance with, the enforcement order concerned; or
- (b) to do, or refrain from doing, anything so specified or described which the person might be required by that order to do or refrain from doing.

(3) An enforcement order may authorise the person making the order to vary or revoke any directions so given.

(4) The court may by order require any person who has failed to comply with directions given by virtue of this section to comply with them, or otherwise remedy his failure, within such time as may be specified in the order.

(5) Where the directions related to anything done in the management or administration of a body of persons corporate or unincorporate, the court may by order require the body of persons concerned or any officer of it to comply with the directions, or otherwise remedy the failure to comply with them, within such time as may be specified in the order.

(6) An order under subsection (4) or (5) shall be made on the application of the person authorised by virtue of this section to give the directions concerned.

(7) An order under subsection (4) or (5) may provide for all the costs or expenses of, or incidental to, the application for the order to be met by any person in default or by any officers of a body of persons corporate or unincorporate who are responsible for its default.

(8) In this section "the court" means--

- (a) in relation to England and Wales or Northern Ireland, the High Court; and
- (b) in relation to Scotland, the Court of Session.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(c).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/88 Contents of certain enforcement orders

88 Contents of certain enforcement orders

- (1) This section applies in relation to any order under section 75, 83 or 84 or under paragraph 5, 10 or 11 of Schedule 7.
- (2) The order or any explanatory material accompanying the order shall state--
 - (a) the actions that the persons or description of persons to whom the order is addressed must do or (as the case may be) refrain from doing;
 - (b) the date on which the order comes into force;
 - (c) the possible consequences of not complying with the order; and
 - (d) the section of this Part under which a review can be sought in relation to the order.

NOTES**Initial Commencement***To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(d), (4).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss

28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/89 Subject-matter of undertakings

89 Subject-matter of undertakings

(1) The provision which may be contained in an enforcement undertaking is not limited to the provision which is permitted by Schedule 8.

(2) In this Part "enforcement undertaking" means an undertaking under section 71, 73, 80 or 82 or under paragraph 1, 3 or 9 of Schedule 7.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(e), (5).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/90 Procedural requirements for certain undertakings and orders

90 Procedural requirements for certain undertakings and orders

Schedule 10 (which provides for the procedure for accepting certain enforcement undertakings and making certain enforcement orders and for their termination) shall have effect.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, in relation to newspaper mergers and undertakings: the Communications Act 2003, s 406(6), Sch 18, para 62(7)(a).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/91 Register of undertakings and orders

91 Register of undertakings and orders

- (1) The OFT shall compile and maintain a register for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) The register shall be kept in such form as the OFT considers appropriate.
- (3) The OFT shall ensure that the following matters are entered in the register--
 - (a) the provisions of any enforcement undertaking accepted under this Part;
 - (b) the provisions of any enforcement order made under this Part;
 - (c) the details of any variation, release or revocation of such an undertaking or order; and
 - (d) the details of any consent given by the Commission under section 77(2) or (3) or 78(2) or by the Secretary of State under paragraph 7(2) or (3) or 8(2) of Schedule 7.
- (4) The duty in subsection (3) does not extend to anything of which the OFT is unaware.
- (5) The Commission and the Secretary of State shall inform the OFT of any matters which are to be included in the register by virtue of subsection (3) and which relate to enforcement undertakings accepted by them, enforcement orders made by them or consents given by them.
- (6) The OFT shall ensure that the contents of the register are available to the public--
 - (a) during (as a minimum) such hours as may be specified in an order made by the Secretary of State; and
 - (b) subject to such reasonable fees (if any) as the OFT may determine.
- (7) If requested by any person to do so and subject to such reasonable fees (if any) as the OFT may determine, the OFT shall supply the person concerned with a copy (certified to be true) of the register or of an extract from it.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(f), (6).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, in relation to newspaper mergers and undertakings: the Communications Act 2003, s 406(6), Sch 18, para 62(7)(b).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

OFT Registers of Undertakings and Orders (Available Hours) Order 2003, SI 2003/1373 (made under sub-s (6)).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/92 Duty of OFT to monitor undertakings and orders

Enforcement functions of OFT

92 Duty of OFT to monitor undertakings and orders

(1) The OFT shall keep under review--

- (a) the carrying out of any enforcement undertaking or any enforcement order; and
- (b) compliance with the prohibitions in sections 77(2) and (3) and 78(2) and in paragraphs 7(2) and (3) and 8(2) of Schedule 7.

(2) The OFT shall, in particular, from time to time consider--

- (a) whether an enforcement undertaking or enforcement order has been or is being complied with;
- (b) whether, by reason of any change of circumstances, an enforcement undertaking is no longer appropriate and--
 - (i) one or more of the parties to it can be released from it; or
 - (ii) it needs to be varied or to be superseded by a new enforcement undertaking; and
- (c) whether, by reason of any change of circumstances, an enforcement order is no longer appropriate and needs to be varied or revoked.

(3) The OFT shall give the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State such advice as it considers appropriate in relation to--

- (a) any possible variation or release by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State of an enforcement undertaking accepted by it or (as the case may be) him;
- (b) any possible new enforcement undertaking to be accepted by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State so as to supersede another enforcement undertaking given to the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State;

- (c) any possible variation or revocation by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State of an enforcement order made by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State;
 - (d) any possible enforcement undertaking to be accepted by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State instead of an enforcement order or any possible enforcement order to be made by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State instead of an enforcement undertaking;
 - (e) the enforcement by virtue of section 94(6) to (8) of any enforcement undertaking or enforcement order; or
 - (f) the enforcement by virtue of section 95(4) and (5) of the prohibitions in sections 77(2) and (3) and 78(2) and in paragraphs 7(2) and (3) and 8(2) of Schedule 7.
- (4) The OFT shall take such action as it considers appropriate in relation to--
- (a) any possible variation or release by it of an enforcement undertaking accepted by it;
 - (b) any possible new enforcement undertaking to be accepted by it so as to supersede another enforcement undertaking given to it;
 - (c) any possible variation or revocation by it of an enforcement order made by it;
 - (d) any possible enforcement undertaking to be accepted by it instead of an enforcement order or any possible enforcement order to be made by it instead of an enforcement undertaking;
 - (e) the enforcement by it by virtue of section 94(6) of any enforcement undertaking or enforcement order; or
 - (f) the enforcement by it by virtue of section 95(4) and (5) of the prohibitions in sections 77(2) and (3) and 78(2) and in paragraphs 7(2) and (3) and 8(2) of Schedule 7.
- (5) The OFT shall keep under review the effectiveness of enforcement undertakings accepted under this Part and enforcement orders made under this Part.
- (6) The OFT shall, whenever requested to do so by the Secretary of State and otherwise from time to time, prepare a report of its findings under subsection (5).
- (7) The OFT shall--
- (a) give any report prepared by it under subsection (6) to the Commission;
 - (b) give a copy of the report to the Secretary of State; and
 - (c) publish the report.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(g), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, in relation to newspaper mergers and undertakings: the Communications Act 2003, s 406(6), Sch 18, para 62(7)(c).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/93 Further role of OFT in relation to undertakings and orders

93 Further role of OFT in relation to undertakings and orders

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where--

- (a) the Commission is considering whether to accept undertakings under section 80 or 82; or
- (b) the Secretary of State is considering whether to accept undertakings under paragraph 1, 3 or 9 of Schedule 7.

(2) The Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State (in this section "the relevant authority") may require the OFT to consult with such persons as the relevant authority considers appropriate with a view to discovering whether they will offer undertakings which the relevant authority would be prepared to accept under section 80 or 82 or (as the case may be) paragraph 1, 3 or 9 of Schedule 7.

(3) The relevant authority may require the OFT to report to the relevant authority on the outcome of the OFT's consultations within such period as the relevant authority may require.

(4) A report under subsection (3) shall, in particular, contain advice from the OFT as to whether any undertakings offered should be accepted by the relevant authority under section 80 or 82 or (as the case may be) paragraph 1, 3 or 9 of Schedule 7.

(5) The powers conferred on the relevant authority by subsections (1) to (4) are without prejudice to the power of the relevant authority to consult the persons concerned itself.

(6) If asked by the relevant authority for advice in relation to the taking of enforcement action (whether or not by way of undertaking) in a particular case, the OFT shall give such advice as it considers appropriate.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(h), (8).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, in relation to newspaper mergers and undertakings: the Communications Act 2003, s 406(6), Sch 18, para 62(7)(d).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/94 Rights to enforce undertakings and orders

Other

94 Rights to enforce undertakings and orders

- (1) This section applies to any enforcement undertaking or enforcement order.
- (2) Any person to whom such an undertaking or order relates shall have a duty to comply with it.
- (3) The duty shall be owed to any person who may be affected by a contravention of the undertaking or (as the case may be) order.
- (4) Any breach of the duty which causes such a person to sustain loss or damage shall be actionable by him.
- (5) In any proceedings brought under subsection (4) against a person to whom an enforcement undertaking or an enforcement order relates it shall be a defence for that person to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid contravening the undertaking or (as the case may be) order.
- (6) Compliance with an enforcement undertaking or an enforcement order shall also be enforceable by civil proceedings brought by the OFT for an injunction or for interdict or for any other appropriate relief or remedy.
- (7) Compliance with an undertaking under section 80 or 82, an order made by the Commission under section 76 or an order under section 81, 83 or 84, shall also be enforceable by civil proceedings brought by the Commission for an injunction or for interdict or for any other appropriate relief or remedy.
- (8) Compliance with an undertaking under paragraph 1, 3 or 9 of Schedule 7, an order made by the Secretary of State under paragraph 2 of that Schedule or an order under paragraph 5, 6, 10 or 11 of that Schedule, shall also be enforceable by civil proceedings brought by the Secretary of State for an injunction or for interdict or for any other appropriate relief or remedy.
- (9) Subsections (6) to (8) shall not prejudice any right that a person may have by virtue of subsection (4) to bring civil proceedings for contravention or apprehended contravention of an enforcement undertaking or an enforcement order.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(i), (9).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, in relation to newspaper mergers and undertakings: the Communications Act 2003, s 406(6), Sch 18, para 62(7)(e).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/95 Rights to enforce statutory restrictions

95 Rights to enforce statutory restrictions

- (1) The obligation to comply with section 77(2) or (3) or 78(2) or paragraph 7(2) or (3) or 8(2) of Schedule 7 shall be a duty owed to any person who may be affected by a contravention of the enactment concerned.
- (2) Any breach of the duty which causes such a person to sustain loss or damage shall be actionable by him.
- (3) In any proceedings brought under subsection (2) against a person who has an obligation to comply with section 77(2) or (3) or 78(2) or paragraph 7(2) or (3) or 8(2) of Schedule 7 it shall be a defence for that person to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid contravening the enactment concerned.
- (4) Compliance with section 77(2) or (3) or 78(2) shall also be enforceable by civil proceedings brought by the OFT or the Commission for an injunction or for interdict or for any other appropriate relief or remedy.
- (5) Compliance with paragraph 7(2) or (3) or 8(2) of Schedule 7 shall also be enforceable by civil proceedings brought by the OFT or the Secretary of State for an injunction or for interdict or for any other appropriate relief or remedy.
- (6) Subsections (4) and (5) shall not prejudice any right that a person may have by virtue of subsection (2) to bring civil proceedings for contravention or apprehended contravention of section 77(2) or (3) or 78(2) or paragraph 7(2) or (3) or 8(2) of Schedule 7.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(j), (10).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss

28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/96 Merger notices

Chapter 5 Supplementary

Merger notices

96 Merger notices

(1) A person authorised to do so by regulations under section 101 may give notice to the OFT of proposed arrangements which might result in the creation of a relevant merger situation.

(2) Any such notice (in this Part a "merger notice")--

- (a) shall be in the prescribed form; and
- (b) shall state that the existence of the proposal has been made public.

(3) No reference shall be made under section 22, 33 or 45 in relation to--

- (a) arrangements of which notice is given under subsection (1) above or arrangements which do not differ from them in any material respect; or
- (b) the creation of any relevant merger situation which is, or may be, created in consequence of carrying such arrangements into effect;

if the period for considering the merger notice has expired without a reference being made under that section in relation to those arrangements.

(4) Subsection (3) is subject to section 100.

(5) In this section and sections 99(5)(c) and 100(1)(c) "prescribed" means prescribed by the OFT by notice having effect for the time being and published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes.

(6) In this Part "notified arrangements" means arrangements of which notice is given under subsection (1) above or arrangements not differing from them in any material respect.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water

mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(f), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/97 Period for considering merger notices

97 Period for considering merger notices

(1) The period for considering a merger notice is, subject as follows, the period of 20 days beginning with the first day after--

- (a) the notice has been received by the OFT; and
- (b) any fee payable by virtue of section 121 to the OFT in respect of the notice has been paid.

(2) Where no intervention notice is in force in relation to the matter concerned, the OFT may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice extend by a further 10 days the period for considering the merger notice.

(3) Where an intervention notice is in force in relation to the matter concerned and there has been no extension under subsection (2), the OFT may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice extend by a further 20 days the period for considering the merger notice.

(4) Where an intervention notice is in force in relation to the matter concerned and there has been an extension under subsection (2), the OFT may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice extend the period for considering the merger notice by a further number of days which, including any extension already made under subsection (2), does not exceed 20 days.

(5) The OFT may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice extend the period for considering a merger notice if the OFT considers that the person has failed to provide, within the period stated in a notice under section 99(2) and in the authorised or required manner, information requested of him in that notice.

(6) An extension under subsection (5) shall be for the period until the person concerned provides the information to the satisfaction of the OFT or, if earlier, the cancellation by the OFT of the extension.

(7) The OFT may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice extend the period for considering a merger notice if the OFT is seeking undertakings under section 73 or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State is seeking undertakings under paragraph 3 of Schedule 7.

(8) An extension under subsection (7) shall be for the period beginning with the receipt of the notice under that subsection and ending with the earliest of the following events--

- (a) the giving of the undertakings concerned;
- (b) the expiry of the period of 10 days beginning with the first day after the receipt by the OFT of a notice from the person from whom the undertakings are being sought stating that he does not intend to give the undertakings; or
- (c) the cancellation by the OFT of the extension.

(9) The Secretary of State may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice extend the period for considering a merger notice if, by virtue of paragraph 3(6) of Schedule 7, he decides to delay a decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45.

(10) An extension under subsection (9) shall be for the period of the delay.

(11) The OFT may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice extend the period for considering a merger notice if the European Commission is considering a request made, in relation to the matter concerned, by the United Kingdom (whether alone or with others) under article [22(1) of the EC Merger

Regulation] (but is not yet proceeding with the matter in pursuance of such a request).

(12) An extension under subsection (11) shall be for the period beginning with the receipt of the notice under that subsection and ending with the receipt of a notice under subsection (13).

(13) The OFT shall, in connection with any notice given by it under subsection (11), by notice inform the person who gave the merger notice of the completion by the European Commission of its consideration of the request of the United Kingdom.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (11): words "22(1) of the EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (22).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(f), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/98 Section 97: supplementary

98 Section 97: supplementary

(1) A notice under section 97(2), (3), (4), (5), (7), (9) or (11) shall be given, before the end of the period for considering the merger notice, to the person who gave the merger notice.

(2) A notice under section 97(5)--

(a) shall also be given within 5 days of the end of the period within which the information is to be provided and which is stated in the notice under section 99(2); and

(b) shall also inform the person who gave the merger notice of--

(i) the OFT's opinion as mentioned in section 97(5); and

(ii) the OFT's intention to extend the period for considering a merger notice.

(3) In determining for the purposes of section 97(1), (2), (3), (4) or (8)(b) or subsection (2)(a) above any period which is expressed in the enactment concerned as a period of days or number of days no account shall be taken of--

(a) Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day; and

(b) any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales.

(4) Any reference in this Part (apart from in section 97(1) and section 99(1)) to the period for considering a merger notice shall, if that period is extended by virtue of any one or more of subsections (2), (3), (4) (5), (7), (9) and (11) of section 97 in relation to a particular case, be construed in relation to that case as a reference to that period as so extended; but only one extension is possible under section 97(2), (3) or (4).

(5) Where the period for considering a merger notice is extended or further extended by virtue of section 97, the period as extended or (as the case may be) further extended shall, subject to subsections (6) and (7), be calculated by taking the period being extended and adding to it the period of the extension (whether or not those periods overlap in time).

(6) Subsection (7) applies where--

(a) the period for considering a merger notice is further extended;

(b) the further extension and at least one previous extension is made under one or more of subsections (5), (7), (9) and (11) of section 97; and

(c) the same days or fractions of days are included in or comprise the further extension and are included in or comprise at least one such previous extension.

(7) In calculating the period of the further extension, any days or fractions of days of the kind mentioned in subsection (6)(c) shall be disregarded.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(f), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/99 Certain functions of OFT and Secretary of State in relation to merger notices

99 Certain functions of OFT and Secretary of State in relation to merger notices

(1) The OFT shall, so far as practicable and when the period for considering any merger notice begins, take such action as the OFT considers appropriate to bring--

(a) the existence of the proposal;

(b) the fact that the merger notice has been given; and

- (c) the date on which the period for considering the notice may expire;

to the attention of those whom the OFT considers would be affected if the arrangements were carried into effect.

(2) The OFT may by notice to the person who gave the merger notice request him to provide the OFT with such information as the OFT or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State may require for the purpose of carrying out its or (as the case may be) his functions in relation to the merger notice.

(3) A notice under subsection (2) shall state--

- (a) the information required;
- (b) the period within which the information is to be provided; and
- (c) the possible consequences of not providing the information within the stated period and in the authorised or required manner.

(4) A notice by the OFT under subsection (2) shall be given, before the end of the period for considering the merger notice, to the person who gave the merger notice.

(5) The OFT may, at any time before the end of the period for considering any merger notice, reject the notice if--

- (a) the OFT suspects that any information given in respect of the notified arrangements (whether in the merger notice or otherwise) by the person who gave the notice or any connected person is in any material respect false or misleading;
- (b) the OFT suspects that it is not proposed to carry the notified arrangements into effect;
- (c) any prescribed information is not given in the merger notice or any information requested by notice under subsection (2) is not provided as required; or
- (d) the OFT considers that the notified arrangements are, or if carried into effect would result in, a concentration with a Community dimension within the meaning of the [EC Merger Regulation].

(6) In this section and section 100 "connected person", in relation to the person who gave a merger notice, means--

- (a) any person who, for the purposes of section 127, is associated with him; or
- (b) any subsidiary of the person who gave the merger notice or of any person so associated with him.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (5): in para (d) words "EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (23).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(f), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/100 Exceptions to protection given by merger notices

100 Exceptions to protection given by merger notices

(1) Section 96(3) does not prevent any reference being made to the Commission if--

(a) before the end of the period for considering the merger notice, the OFT rejects the notice under section 99(5);

(b) before the end of that period, any of the enterprises to which the notified arrangements relate cease to be distinct from each other;

(c) any information (whether prescribed information or not) that--

(i) is, or ought to be, known to the person who gave the merger notice or any connected person; and

(ii) is material to the notified arrangements;

is not disclosed to the OFT by such time before the end of that period as may be specified in regulations under section 101;

(d) at any time after the merger notice is given but before the enterprises to which the notified arrangements relate cease to be distinct from each other, any of those enterprises ceases to be distinct from any enterprise other than an enterprise to which those arrangements relate;

(e) the six months beginning with the end of the period for considering the merger notice expires without the enterprises to which the notified arrangements relate ceasing to be distinct from each other;

(f) the merger notice is withdrawn; or

(g) any information given in respect of the notified arrangements (whether in the merger notice or otherwise) by the person who gave the notice or any connected person is in any material respect false or misleading.

(2) Subsection (3) applies where--

(a) two or more transactions which have occurred, or, if any arrangements are carried into effect, will occur, may be treated for the purposes of a reference under section 22, 33 or 45 as having occurred simultaneously on a particular date; and

(b) section 96(3) does not prevent such a reference in relation to the last of those transactions.

(3) Section 96(3) does not prevent such a reference in relation to any of those transactions which actually occurred less than six months before--

(a) that date; or

(b) the actual occurrence of another of those transactions in relation to which such a reference may

be made (whether or not by virtue of this subsection).

(4) In determining for the purposes of subsections (2) and (3) the time at which any transaction actually occurred, no account shall be taken of any option or other conditional right until the option is exercised or the condition is satisfied.

(5) In this section references to the enterprises to which the notified arrangements relate are references to those enterprises that would have ceased to be distinct from one another if the arrangements mentioned in the merger notice concerned had been carried into effect at the time when the notice was given.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(f), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/101 Merger notices: regulations

101 Merger notices: regulations

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations for the purposes of sections 96 to 100.
- (2) The regulations may, in particular--
 - (a) provide for section 97(1), (2), (3) or (4) or section 100(1)(e) to apply as if any reference to a period of days or months were a reference to a period specified in the regulations for the purposes of the enactment concerned;
 - (b) provide for the manner in which any merger notice is authorised or required to be rejected or withdrawn, and the time at which any merger notice is to be treated as received or rejected;
 - (c) provide for the time at which any notice under section 97(7), (8)(b), (11) or (13) is to be treated as received;
 - (d) provide for the manner in which any information requested by the OFT or any other material information is authorised or required to be provided or disclosed, and the time at which such information is to be treated as provided or disclosed (including the time at which it is to be treated as provided to the satisfaction of the OFT for the purposes of section 97(6));
 - (e) provide for the person who gave the merger notice to be informed, in circumstances in which section 97(6) applies--
 - (i) of the fact that the OFT is satisfied as to the provision of the information requested by the OFT or (as the case may be) of the OFT's decision to cancel the extension; and

- (ii) of the time at which the OFT is to be treated as so satisfied or (as the case may be) of the time at which the cancellation is to be treated as having effect;
- (f) provide for the person who gave the merger notice to be informed, in circumstances in which section 97(8) applies--
 - (i) of any decision by the OFT to cancel the extension; and
 - (ii) of the time at which such a cancellation is to be treated as having effect;
- (g) provide for the time at which any fee is to be treated as paid;
- (h) provide that a person is, or is not, to be treated, in such circumstances as may be specified in the regulations, as acting on behalf of a person authorised by regulations under this section to give a merger notice or a person who has given such a notice.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(f), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

Enterprise Act 2002 (Merger Prenotification) Regulations 2003, SI 2003/1369.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/102 Power to modify sections 97 to 101

102 Power to modify sections 97 to 101

The Secretary of State may, for the purposes of determining the effect of giving a merger notice and the action which may be or is to be taken by any person in connection with such a notice, by order modify sections 97 to 101.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(f), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/103 Duty of expedition in relation to references

General duties in relation to references**103 Duty of expedition in relation to references**

(1) In deciding whether to make a reference under section 22 or 33 the OFT shall have regard, with a view to the prevention or removal of uncertainty, to the need for making a decision as soon as reasonably practicable.

(2) In deciding whether to make a reference under section 45 or 62 the Secretary of State shall have regard, with a view to the prevention or removal of uncertainty, to the need for making a decision as soon as reasonably practicable.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(k), (11).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 25.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/104 Certain duties of relevant authorities to consult

104 Certain duties of relevant authorities to consult

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the relevant authority is proposing to make a relevant decision in a way which the relevant authority considers is likely to be adverse to the interests of a relevant party.

(2) The relevant authority shall, so far as practicable, consult that party about what is proposed before making that decision.

(3) In consulting the party concerned, the relevant authority shall, so far as practicable, give the reasons of the relevant authority for the proposed decision.

(4) In considering what is practicable for the purposes of this section the relevant authority shall, in particular, have regard to--

(a) any restrictions imposed by any timetable for making the decision; and

(b) any need to keep what is proposed, or the reasons for it, confidential.

(5) The duty under this section shall not apply in relation to the making of any decision so far as particular provision is made elsewhere by virtue of this Part for consultation before the making of that decision.

(6) In this section--

"the relevant authority" means the OFT, the Commission or the Secretary of State;

"relevant decision" means--

(a) in the case of the OFT, any decision by the OFT--

(i) as to whether to make a reference under section 22 or 33 or accept undertakings under section 73 instead of making such a reference; or

(ii) to vary under section 37 such a reference;

(b) in the case of the Commission, any decision on the questions mentioned in section 35(1) or (3), 36(1) or (2), 47 or 63; and

(c) in the case of the Secretary of State, any decision by the Secretary of State--

(i) as to whether to make a reference under section 45 or 62; or

(ii) to vary under section 49 or (as the case may be) 64 such a reference; and

"relevant party" means any person who appears to the relevant authority to control enterprises which are the subject of the reference or possible reference concerned.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(l), (12).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (6) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 26.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[104A Public consultation in relation to media mergers]

[104A Public consultation in relation to media mergers]

[(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Commission--

(a) is preparing--

(i) a report under section 50 on a reference which specifies a media public interest consideration; or

(ii) a report under section 65 on a reference which specifies a consideration specified in section 58 (2A) to (2C); and

(b) is not under a duty to disregard the consideration concerned.

(2) The Commission shall have regard (among other things) to the need to consult the public so far as they might be affected by the creation of the relevant merger situation or special merger situation concerned and so far as such consultation is practicable.

(3) Any consultation of the kind mentioned in subsection (2) may be undertaken by the Commission by consulting such representative sample of the public or section of the public concerned as the Commission considers appropriate.]

NOTES**Amendment**

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 381.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(la), (12A) (as inserted by SI 2003/3180, art 2, Schedule, para 10(1), (9), (12)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/105 General information duties of OFT and Commission

Information and publicity requirements

105 General information duties of OFT and Commission

(1) Where the OFT decides to investigate a matter so as to enable it to decide whether to make a reference under section 22 or 33, or so as to make a report under section 44 or 61, it shall, so far as practicable, take such action as it considers appropriate to bring information about the investigation to the attention of those whom it considers might be affected by the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned or (as the case may be) the special merger situation concerned.

[(1A) Where OFCOM decide to investigate a matter so as to make a report under section 44A or 61A, they shall, so far as practicable, take such action as they consider appropriate to bring information about the investigation to the attention of those who they consider might be affected by the creation of the relevant merger situation concerned or (as the case may be) the special merger situation concerned.]

(2) [Subsections (1) and (1A) do] not apply in relation to arrangements which might result in the creation of a relevant merger situation if a merger notice has been given in relation to those arrangements under section 96.

(3) The OFT shall give the Commission [or OFCOM]--

(a) such information in its possession as the Commission [or (as the case may be) OFCOM] may reasonably require to enable the Commission [or (as the case may be) OFCOM] to carry out its functions under this Part; and

(b) any other assistance which the Commission [or (as the case may be) OFCOM] may reasonably require for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under this Part and which it is within the power of the OFT to give.

[(3A) OFCOM shall give the Commission or the OFT--

(a) such information in their possession as the Commission or (as the case may be) the OFT may reasonably require to enable the Commission or (as the case may be) the OFT to carry out its functions under this Part; and

(b) any other assistance which the Commission or (as the case may be) the OFT may reasonably require for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under this Part and which it is within the power of OFCOM to give.]

(4) The OFT shall give the Commission [or OFCOM] any information in its possession which has not been requested by the Commission [or (as the case may be) OFCOM] but which, in the opinion of the OFT, would be appropriate to give to the Commission [or (as the case may be) OFCOM] for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under this Part.

[(4A) OFCOM shall give the Commission or the OFT any information in their possession which has not been requested by the Commission or (as the case may be) the OFT but which, in the opinion of OFCOM, would be appropriate to give to the Commission or (as the case may be) the OFT for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under this Part.]

(5) The OFT[, OFCOM] and the Commission shall give the Secretary of State--

(a) such information in their possession as the Secretary of State may by direction reasonably require to enable him to carry out his functions under this Part; and

(b) any other assistance which the Secretary of State may by direction reasonably require for the purpose of assisting him in carrying out his functions under this Part and which it is within the power of the OFT[, OFCOM] or (as the case may be) the Commission to give.

(6) The OFT [and OFCOM] shall give the Secretary of State any information in [their] possession which has not been requested by the Secretary of State but which, in the opinion of the OFT [or (as the case may be) OFCOM], would be appropriate to give to the Secretary of State for the purpose of assisting him in carrying out his functions under this Part.

(7) The Commission shall have regard to any information given to it under subsection (3)[, (3A), (4) or (4A)]; and the Secretary of State shall have regard to any information given to him under subsection (5) or (6).

[(7A) OFCOM shall have regard to any information given to them under subsection (3) or (4); and the OFT shall have regard to any information given to it under subsection (3A) or (4A).]

(8) Any direction given under subsection (5)--

- (a) shall be in writing; and
- (b) may be varied or revoked by a subsequent direction.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (2): words "Subsections (1) and (1A) do" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (3): words "or OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (4) (a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (3): words "or (as the case may be) OFCOM" in square brackets in each place they occur inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (4)(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (3A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (5).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): words "or OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (6)(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): words "or (as the case may be) OFCOM" in square brackets in both places they occur inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (6)(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (7).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (5): reference to ", OFCOM" in square brackets in both places it occurs inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (8).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (6): words "and OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (9)(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (6): word "their" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (9)(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (6): words "or (as the case may be) OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (9)(c).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (7): words ", (3A), (4) or (4A)" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (10).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (7A): inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 382(1), (11).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(m), (13) (as amended by SI 2003/3180, art 2, Schedule, para 10(1), (13)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of

Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 27.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/106 Advice and information about references under sections 22 and 33

106 Advice and information about references under sections 22 and 33

- (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after the passing of this Act, the OFT shall prepare and publish general advice and information about the making of references by it under section 22 or 33.
- (2) The OFT may at any time publish revised, or new, advice or information.
- (3) As soon as reasonably practicable after the passing of this Act, the Commission shall prepare and publish general advice and information about the consideration by it of references under section 22 or 33 and the way in which relevant customer benefits may affect the taking of enforcement action in relation to such references.
- (4) The Commission may at any time publish revised, or new, advice or information.
- (5) Advice and information published under this section shall be prepared with a view to--
 - (a) explaining relevant provisions of this Part to persons who are likely to be affected by them; and
 - (b) indicating how the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission expects such provisions to operate.
- (6) Advice (or information) published by virtue of subsection (1) or (3) may include advice (or information) about the factors which the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission may take into account in considering whether, and if so how, to exercise a function conferred by this Part.
- (7) Any advice or information published by the OFT or the Commission under this section shall be published in such manner as the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission considers appropriate.
- (8) In preparing any advice or information under this section, the OFT shall consult the Commission and such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- (9) In preparing any advice or information under this section, the Commission shall consult the OFT and such other persons as it considers appropriate.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers

and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (3) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 28.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[106A Advice and information in relation to media mergers]

[106A Advice and information in relation to media mergers]

[(1) The Secretary of State may prepare and publish general advice and information about the considerations specified in section 58(2A) to (2C).

(2) The Secretary of State may at any time publish revised, or new, advice or information.

(3) Advice or information published under this section shall be prepared with a view to--

(a) explaining the considerations specified in section 58(2A) to (2C) to persons who are likely to be affected by them; and

(b) indicating how the Secretary of State expects this Part to operate in relation to such considerations.

(4) Any advice or information published by the Secretary of State under this section shall be published in such manner as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(5) In preparing any advice or information under this section, the Secretary of State shall consult the OFT, OFCOM, the Commission and such other persons as he considers appropriate.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 383.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[106B General advisory functions of OFCOM]

[106B General advisory functions of OFCOM]

[(1) OFCOM may, in connection with any case on which they are required to give a report by virtue of section 44A or 61A, give such advice as they consider appropriate to the Secretary of State in relation to--

(a) any report made in such a case by the Commission under section 50 or 65; and

- (b) the taking by the Secretary of State of enforcement action under Schedule 7.
- (2) OFCOM may, if requested to do so by the Secretary of State, give such other advice as they consider appropriate to the Secretary of State in connection with any case on which they are required to give a report by virtue of section 44A or 61A.
- (3) OFCOM shall publish any advice given by them under this section but advice given by them in relation to a report of the Commission under section 50 or 65 or related enforcement action shall not be published before the report itself is published.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 384.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(ma), (13A) (as inserted by SI 2003/3180, art 2, Schedule, para 10(1), (10), (14)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/107 Further publicity requirements

107 Further publicity requirements

- (1) The OFT shall publish--
- (a) any reference made by it under section 22 or 33 or any decision made by it not to make such a reference (other than a decision made by virtue of subsection (2)(b) of section 33);
 - (b) any variation made by it under section 37 of a reference under section 22 or 33;
 - (c) such information as it considers appropriate about any decision made by it under section 57(1) to bring a case to the attention of the Secretary of State;
 - (d) any enforcement undertaking accepted by it under section 71;
 - (e) any enforcement order made by it under section 72 or 76 or paragraph 2 of Schedule 7;
 - (f) any variation, release or revocation of such an undertaking or order;
 - (g) any decision made by it as mentioned in section 76(6)(b); and
 - (h) any decision made by it to dispense with the requirements of Schedule 10.
- (2) The Commission shall publish--
- (a) any cancellation by it under section 37(1) of a reference under section 33;

- (b) any decision made by it under section 37(2) to treat a reference made under section 22 or 33 as if it had been made under section 33 or (as the case may be) 22;
 - (c) any extension by it under section 39 of the period within which a report under section 38 is to be prepared and published;
 - (d) any decision made by it to cancel an extension as mentioned in section 39(8)(b);
 - (e) any decision made by it under section 41(2) neither to accept an undertaking under section 82 nor to make an order under section 84;
 - (f) any decision made by it that there has been a material change of circumstances as mentioned in subsection (3) of section 41 or there is another special reason as mentioned in that subsection of that section;
 - (g) any cancellation by it under section 48(1) or 53(1) of a reference under section 45 or any cancellation by it under section 64(1) of a reference under section 62;
 - (h) any decision made by it under section 49(1) to treat--
 - (i) a reference made under subsection (2) or (3) of section 45 as if it had been made under subsection (4) or (as the case may be) (5) of that section; or
 - (ii) a reference made under subsection (4) or (5) of section 45 as if it had been made under subsection (2) or (as the case may be) (3) of that section;
 - (i) any extension by it under section 51 of the period within which a report under section 50 is to be prepared and published;
 - (j) any decision made by it under section 51(8)(b) to cancel such an extension;
 - (k) any extension by it under section 51 as applied by section 65(3) of the period within which a report under section 65 is to be prepared and published;
 - (l) any decision made by it under section 51(8)(b) as applied by section 65(3) to cancel such an extension;
 - (m) any decision made by it under section 64(2) to treat a reference made under subsection (2) or (3) of section 62 as if it had been made under subsection (3) or (as the case may be) (2) of that section;
 - (n) any decision made by it as mentioned in section 76(6)(b);
 - (o) any enforcement order made by it under section 76 or 81;
 - (p) any enforcement undertaking accepted by it under section 80;
 - (q) any variation, release or revocation of such an order or undertaking; and
 - (r) any decision made by it to dispense with the requirements of Schedule 10.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall publish--
- (a) any intervention notice or special intervention notice given by him;
 - (b) any report of the OFT under section 44 or 61 which has been received by him;
 - [(ba) any report of OFCOM under section 44A or 61A which has been received by him;]
 - (c) any reference made by him under section 45 or 62 or any decision made by him not to make such a reference;
 - (d) any variation made by him under section 49 of a reference under section 45 or under section 64 of

a reference under section 62;

- (e) any report of the Commission under section 50 or 65 which has been received by him;
- (f) any decision made by him neither to accept an undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 nor to make an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule;
- (g) any notice given by him under section 56(1);
- (h) any enforcement undertaking accepted by him under paragraph 1 of Schedule 7;
- (i) any variation or release of such an undertaking;
- (j) any decision made by him as mentioned in paragraph 6(6)(b) of Schedule 7; and
- (k) any decision made by him to dispense with the requirements of Schedule 10.

(4) Where any person is under a duty by virtue of subsection (1), (2) or (3) to publish the result of any action taken by that person or any decision made by that person, the person concerned shall, subject to subsections (5) and (6), also publish that person's reasons for the action concerned or (as the case may be) the decision concerned.

(5) Such reasons need not, if it is not reasonably practicable to do so, be published at the same time as the result of the action concerned or (as the case may be) as the decision concerned.

(6) Subsections (4) and (5) shall not apply in relation to any information published under subsection (1)(c).

(7) The Secretary of State shall publish his reasons for--

- (a) any decision made by him under section 54(2) or 66(2); or
- (b) any decision to make an order under section 58(3) or vary or revoke such an order.

(8) Such reasons may be published after--

- (a) in the case of subsection (7)(a), the publication of the decision concerned; and
- (b) in the case of subsection (7)(b), the making of the order or of the variation or revocation;

if it is not reasonably practicable to publish them at the same time as the publication of the decision or (as the case may be) the making of the order or variation or revocation.

(9) The Secretary of State shall publish--

- (a) the report of the OFT under section 44[, and any report of OFCOM under section 44A,] in relation to a matter no later than publication of his decision as to whether to make a reference under section 45 in relation to that matter; and
- (b) the report of the Commission under section 50 in relation to a matter no later than publication of his decision under section 54(2) in relation to that matter.

(10) The Secretary of State shall publish--

- (a) the report of the OFT under section 61[, and any report of OFCOM under section 61A,] in relation to a matter no later than publication of his decision as to whether to make a reference under section 62 in relation to that matter; and
- (b) the report of the Commission under section 65 in relation to a matter no later than publication of his decision under section 66(2) in relation to that matter.

(11) Where the Secretary of State has decided under section 55(2) or 66(6) to accept an undertaking under paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 or to make an order under paragraph 11 of that Schedule, he shall (after

the acceptance of the undertaking or (as the case may be) the making of the order) lay details of his decision and his reasons for it, and the Commission's report under section 50 or (as the case may be) 65, before each House of Parliament.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (3): para (ba) inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 18(1), (2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (9): in para (a) words ", and any report of OFCOM under section 44A," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 18(1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (10): in para (a) words ", and any report of OFCOM under section 61A," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 18(1), (4).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (2) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 29.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/108 Defamation

108 Defamation

For the purposes of the law relating to defamation, absolute privilege attaches to any advice, guidance, notice or direction given, or decision or report made, by the OFT, [OFCOM,] the Commission or the Secretary of State in the exercise of any of their functions under this Part.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Reference to "OFCOM," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 19.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(n), (14).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/109 Attendance of witnesses and production of documents etc

Investigation powers

109 Attendance of witnesses and production of documents etc

(1) The Commission may, for the purpose of any investigation on a reference made to it under this Part, give notice to any person requiring him--

- (a) to attend at a time and place specified in the notice; and
- (b) to give evidence to the Commission or a person nominated by the Commission for the purpose.

(2) The Commission may, for the purpose of any investigation on a reference made to it under this Part, give notice to any person requiring him--

- (a) to produce any documents which--
 - (i) are specified or described in the notice, or fall within a category of document which is specified or described in the notice; and
 - (ii) are in that person's custody or under his control; and

- (b) to produce them at a time and place so specified and to a person so specified.

(3) The Commission may, for the purpose of any investigation on a reference made to it under this Part, give notice to any person who carries on any business requiring him--

- (a) to supply to the Commission such estimates, forecasts, returns or other information as may be specified or described in the notice; and

- (b) to supply it at a time and place, and in a form and manner, so specified and to a person so specified.
- (4) A notice under this section shall include information about the possible consequences of not complying with the notice.
- (5) The Commission or any person nominated by it for the purpose may, for the purpose of any investigation on a reference made to it under this Part, take evidence on oath, and for that purpose may administer oaths.
- (6) The person to whom any document is produced in accordance with a notice under this section may, for the purpose of any investigation on a reference made to the Commission under this Part, copy the document so produced.
- (7) No person shall be required under this section--
- (a) to give any evidence or produce any documents which he could not be compelled to give or produce in civil proceedings before the court; or
- (b) to supply any information which he could not be compelled to supply in evidence in such proceedings.
- (8) No person shall be required, in compliance with a notice under this section, to go more than 10 miles from his place of residence unless his necessary travelling expenses are paid or offered to him.
- (9) Any reference in this section to the production of a document includes a reference to the production of a legible and intelligible copy of information recorded otherwise than in legible form.
- (10) In this section "the court" means--
- (a) in relation to England and Wales or Northern Ireland, the High Court; and
- (b) in relation to Scotland, the Court of Session.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(o), (15).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers

and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1)-(3), (5), (6) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 30. See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(a), (4), (5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(a), (9), (10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(a), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(a), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of an investigation by the Commission under the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60, shall apply as it applies in relation to an investigation made on a reference under Pt 3 hereof: the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60(9).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/110 Enforcement of powers under section 109: general

110 Enforcement of powers under section 109: general

(1) Where the Commission considers that a person has, without reasonable excuse, failed to comply with any requirement of a notice under section 109, it may impose a penalty in accordance with section 111.

(2) The Commission may proceed (whether at the same time or at different times) under subsection (1) and section 39(4) or (as the case may be) 51(4) (including that enactment as applied by section 65(3)) in relation to the same failure.

(3) Where the Commission considers that a person has intentionally obstructed or delayed another person in the exercise of his powers under section 109(6), it may impose a penalty in accordance with section 111.

(4) No penalty shall be imposed by virtue of subsection (1) or (3) if more than 4 weeks have passed since the publication of the report of the Commission on the reference concerned; but this subsection shall not apply in relation to any variation or substitution of the penalty which is permitted by virtue of this Part.

(5) A person, subject to subsection (6), commits an offence if he intentionally alters, suppresses or destroys any document which he has been required to produce by a notice under section 109.

(6) A person does not commit an offence under subsection (5) in relation to any act which constitutes a failure to comply with a notice under section 109 if the Commission has proceeded against that person under subsection (1) above in relation to that failure.

(7) A person who commits an offence under subsection (5) shall be liable--

(a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;

(b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to

both.

(8) The Commission shall not proceed against a person under subsection (1) in relation to an act which constitutes an offence under subsection (5) if that person has been found guilty of that offence.

(9) In deciding whether and, if so, how to proceed under subsection (1) or (3) or section 39(4) or 51(4) (including that enactment as applied by section 65(3)), the Commission shall have regard to the statement of policy which was most recently published under section 116 at the time when the failure concerned or (as the case may be) the obstruction or delay concerned occurred.

(10) The reference in this section to the production of a document includes a reference to the production of a legible and intelligible copy of information recorded otherwise than in legible form; and the reference to suppressing a document includes a reference to destroying the means of reproducing information recorded otherwise than in legible form.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(p), (16).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(b), (2), (4), (5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(b), (7), (9), (10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(b), (2), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(b), (4), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern

Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of an investigation by the Commission under the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60, shall apply as it applies in relation to an investigation made on a reference under Pt 3 hereof: the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60(9).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/111 Penalties

111 Penalties

- (1) A penalty imposed under section 110(1) or (3) shall be of such amount as the Commission considers appropriate.
- (2) The amount may, in the case of a penalty imposed under section 110(1), be a fixed amount, an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate or a combination of a fixed amount and an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate.
- (3) The amount shall, in the case of a penalty imposed under section 110(3), be a fixed amount.
- (4) No penalty imposed under section 110(1) shall--
 - (a) in the case of a fixed amount, exceed such amount as the Secretary of State may by order specify;
 - (b) in the case of an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, exceed such amount per day as the Secretary of State may so specify; and
 - (c) in the case of a fixed amount and an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, exceed such fixed amount and such amount per day as the Secretary of State may so specify.
- (5) In imposing a penalty by reference to a daily rate--
 - (a) no account shall be taken of any days before the service of the notice under section 112 on the person concerned; and
 - (b) unless the Commission determines an earlier date (whether before or after the penalty is imposed), the amount payable shall cease to accumulate at the beginning of--
 - (i) the day on which the requirement of the notice concerned under section 109 is satisfied or (as the case may be) the obstruction or delay is removed; or
 - (ii) if earlier, the day on which the report of the Commission on the reference concerned is published (or, in the case of a report under section 50 or 65, given) or, if no such report is published (or given) within the period permitted for that purpose by this Part, the latest day on which the report may be published (or given) within the permitted period.
- (6) No penalty imposed under section 110(3) shall exceed such amount as the Secretary of State may by order specify.
- (7) An order under subsection (4) or (6) shall not specify--
 - (a) in the case of a fixed amount, an amount exceeding £30,000;
 - (b) in the case of an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, an amount per day exceeding £15,000; and
 - (c) in the case of a fixed amount and an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, a fixed amount exceeding £30,000 and an amount per day exceeding £15,000.
- (8) Before making an order under subsection (4) or (6) the Secretary of State shall consult the Commission and such other persons as he considers appropriate.

NOTES**Initial Commencement***To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(q), (17).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(c), (3)-(5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(c), (8)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(c), (3), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(c), (5), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of an investigation by the Commission under the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60, shall apply as it applies in relation to an investigation made on a reference under Pt 3 hereof: the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60(9).

Subordinate Legislation

Competition Commission (Penalties) Order 2003, SI 2003/1371 (made under sub-ss (4), (6)).

Competition Commission (Water Industry) Penalties Order 2007, SI 2007/461 (made under sub-ss (4), (6)).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/112 Penalties: main

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procedural requirements

112 Penalties: main procedural requirements

- (1) As soon as practicable after imposing a penalty under section 110(1) or (3), the Commission shall give notice of the penalty.
- (2) The notice shall state--
 - (a) that the Commission has imposed a penalty on the person concerned;
 - (b) whether the penalty is of a fixed amount, of an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate or of both a fixed amount and an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate;
 - (c) the amount or amounts concerned and, in the case of an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, the day on which the amount first starts to accumulate and the day or days on which it might cease to accumulate;
 - (d) the failure or (as the case may be) the obstruction or delay which the Commission considers gave it the power to impose the penalty;
 - (e) any other facts which the Commission considers justify the imposition of a penalty and the amount or amounts of the penalty;
 - (f) the manner in which, and place at which, the penalty is required to be paid to the Commission;
 - (g) the date or dates, no earlier than the end of the relevant period beginning with the date of service of the notice on the person concerned, by which the penalty or (as the case may be) different portions of it are required to be paid;
 - (h) that the penalty or (as the case may be) different portions of it may be paid earlier than the date or dates by which it or they are required to be paid; and
 - (i) that the person concerned has the right to apply under subsection (3) below or to appeal under section 114 and the main details of those rights.
- (3) The person against whom the penalty was imposed may, within 14 days of the date of service on him of a notice under subsection (1), apply to the Commission for it to specify a different date or (as the case may be) different dates by which the penalty or (as the case may be) different portions of it are to be paid.
- (4) A notice under this section shall be given by--
 - (a) serving a copy of the notice on the person on whom the penalty was imposed; and
 - (b) publishing the notice.
- (5) In this section "relevant period" means the period of 28 days mentioned in subsection (3) of section 114 or, if another period is specified by the Secretary of State under that subsection, that period.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(r).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(d), (4), (5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(d), (9), (10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(d), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(d), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of an investigation by the Commission under the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60, shall apply as it applies in relation to an investigation made on a reference under Pt 3 hereof: the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60(9).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/113 Payments and interest by instalments

113 Payments and interest by instalments

(1) If the whole or any portion of a penalty is not paid by the date by which it is required to be paid, the unpaid balance from time to time shall carry interest at the rate for the time being specified in section 17 of the Judgments Act 1838 (c 110).

(2) Where an application has been made under section 112(3), the penalty shall not be required to be paid until the application has been determined, withdrawn or otherwise dealt with.

(3) If a portion of a penalty has not been paid by the date required for it, the Commission may, where it considers it appropriate to do so, require so much of the penalty as has not already been paid (and is capable of being paid immediately) to be paid immediately.

(4) Any sums received by the Commission in or towards the payment of a penalty, or interest on a penalty, shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

NOTES

Initial Commencement*To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(s).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(e), (4), (5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(e), (9), (10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(e), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(e), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of an investigation by the Commission under the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60, shall apply as it applies in relation to an investigation made on a reference under Pt 3 hereof: the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60(9).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/114 Appeals in relation to penalties

114 Appeals in relation to penalties

(1) This section applies if a person on whom a penalty is imposed under section 110(1) or (3) is aggrieved by--

- (a) the imposition or nature of the penalty;
- (b) the amount or amounts of the penalty; or

- (c) the date by which the penalty is required to be paid or (as the case may be) the different dates by which portions of the penalty are required to be paid.
- (2) The person aggrieved may apply to the Competition Appeal Tribunal.
- (3) If a copy of the notice under section 112(1) was served on the person on whom the penalty was imposed, the application to the Competition Appeal Tribunal shall, subject to subsection (4), be made within--
- (a) the period of 28 days starting with the day on which the copy was served on the person concerned; or
- (b) such other period as the Secretary of State may by order specify.
- (4) If the application relates to a decision of the Commission on an application by the person on whom the penalty was imposed under section 112(3), the application to the Competition Appeal Tribunal shall be made within--
- (a) the period of 28 days starting with the day on which the person concerned is notified of the decision; or
- (b) such other period as the Secretary of State may by order specify.
- (5) On an application under this section, the Competition Appeal Tribunal may--
- (a) quash the penalty;
- (b) substitute a penalty of a different nature or of such lesser amount or amounts as the Competition Appeal Tribunal considers appropriate; or
- (c) in a case falling within subsection (1)(c), substitute for the date or dates imposed by the Commission an alternative date or dates;
- if it considers it appropriate to do so.
- (6) The Competition Appeal Tribunal shall not substitute a penalty of a different nature under subsection (5)(b) unless it considers that the person on whom the penalty is imposed will, or is likely to, pay less under the substituted penalty than he would have paid under the original penalty.
- (7) Where an application has been made under this section--
- (a) the penalty shall not be required to be paid until the application has been determined, withdrawn or otherwise dealt with; and
- (b) the Commission may agree to reduce the amount or amounts of the penalty in settlement of the application.
- (8) Where the Competition Appeal Tribunal substitutes a penalty of a different nature or of a lesser amount or amounts it may require the payment of interest on the substituted penalty at such rate or rates, and from such date or dates, as it considers appropriate.
- (9) Where the Competition Appeal Tribunal specifies as a date by which the penalty, or a portion of the penalty, is to be paid a date before the determination of the application under this section it may require the payment of interest on the penalty, or portion, from that date at such rate as it considers appropriate.
- (10) An appeal lies to the appropriate court--
- (a) on a point of law arising from a decision of the Tribunal in proceedings under this section; or
- (b) from a decision of the Tribunal in such proceedings as to the amount or amounts of a penalty.
- (11) An appeal under subsection (10)--

- (a) may be brought by a party to the proceedings before the Tribunal; and
- (b) requires the permission of the Tribunal or the appropriate court.

(12) In this section "the appropriate court" means the Court of Appeal or, in the case of Tribunal proceedings in Scotland, the Court of Session.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(t).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(f), (4), (5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(f), (9), (10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(f), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(f), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of an investigation by the Commission under the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60, shall apply as it applies in relation to an investigation made on a reference under Pt 3 hereof: the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60(9).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/115 Recovery of penalties

115 Recovery of penalties

Where a penalty imposed under section 110(1) or (3), or any portion of such a penalty, has not been paid by the date on which it is required to be paid and--

- (a) no application relating to the penalty has been made under section 114 during the period within which such an application may be made, or
- (b) any such application which has been made has been determined, withdrawn or otherwise dealt with,

the Commission may recover from the person on whom the penalty was imposed any of the penalty and any interest which has not been paid; and in England and Wales and Northern Ireland such penalty and interest may be recovered as a civil debt due to the Commission.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(u).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(g), (4), (5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(g), (9), (10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(g), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(g), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of an investigation by the Commission under the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60, shall apply as it applies in relation to an investigation made on a reference under Pt 3 hereof: the Legal Services Act 2007, s 60(9).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/116 Statement of policy

116 Statement of policy

(1) The Commission shall prepare and publish a statement of policy in relation to the enforcement of notices under section 109.

(2) The statement shall, in particular, include a statement about the considerations relevant to the determination of the nature and amount of any penalty imposed under section 110(1) or (3).

(3) The Commission may revise its statement of policy and, where it does so, it shall publish the revised statement.

(4) The Commission shall consult such persons as it considers appropriate when preparing or revising its statement of policy.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(v).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16A as it applies for the purposes of any investigations on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 16B(6)-(10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 55(1), (4)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17K as it applies for the purposes of references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17M(1)(h), (4), (5) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17P as it applies for the purposes of any investigation on references under Pt 3 hereof: the Water Industry Act 1991, s 17Q(6)(h), (9), (10) (as inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 56, Sch 4, paras 1, 2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(h), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(h), (7).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, arts 23, 27(6)-(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/117 False or misleading information

117 False or misleading information

(1) A person commits an offence if--

- (a) he supplies any information to the OFT, [OFCOM,] the Commission or the Secretary of State in connection with any of their functions under this Part;
- (b) the information is false or misleading in a material respect; and
- (c) he knows that it is false or misleading in a material respect or is reckless as to whether it is false or misleading in a material respect.

(2) A person commits an offence if he--

- (a) supplies any information to another person which he knows to be false or misleading in a material respect; or
- (b) recklessly supplies any information to another person which is false or misleading in a material respect;

knowing that the information is to be used for the purpose of supplying information to the OFT, [OFCOM,] the Commission or the Secretary of State in connection with any of their functions under this Part.

(3) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable--

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): in para (a) reference to "OFCOM," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 20(1), (2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (2): reference to "OFCOM," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 20(1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to references received by the Competition Commission in respect of applications for an order altering licensable activities: the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, SI 2003/419 (NI 6), arts 37, 39(2), 40(2), Sch 2, paras 3-6.

See further, in relation to the application of this section to the EEC Merger Control (Distinct Market Investigations) Regulations 1990, SI 1990/1715: the EEC Merger Control (Distinct Market Investigations) Regulations 1990, SI 1990/1715, reg 5 (as inserted by The Enterprise Act 2002 (Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Order 2003, SI 2003/1398, art 2, Schedule, para 17(1), (5)).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(w), (18).

See further, in relation to information supplied to the Competition Commission in connection with their functions under the Communications Act 2003, s 193 as it has effect in relation to information supplied to them in connection with their functions under Pt 3 hereof: the Communications Act 2003, s 193(8).

See further, the Communications Act 2003, ss 370(10), 406(6), Sch 18, para 56 which provide that where functions are exercisable by OFCOM by virtue of the Communications Act 2003, s 370, the references to the Office of Fair Trading in sub-ss (1)(a), (2) above shall include references to OFCOM.

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1), (2) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 31.

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(i), (4), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(i), (6), (7).

See further, in relation to the effect of this section for the purposes of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006: the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 29(10).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/118 Excisions from reports

Reports**118 Excisions from reports**

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State is under a duty to publish--
- (a) a report of the OFT under section 44 or 61;
 - [(aa) a report of OFCOM under section 44A or 61A;] or
 - (b) a report of the Commission under section 50 or 65.
- (2) The Secretary of State may exclude a matter from the report concerned if he considers that publication of the matter would be inappropriate.
- (3) In deciding what is inappropriate for the purposes of subsection (2) the Secretary of State shall have regard to the considerations mentioned in section 244.
- (4) The body which has prepared the report shall advise the Secretary of State as to the matters (if any) which it considers should be excluded by him under subsection (2).
- (5) References in sections 38(4) and 107(11) to the giving or laying of a report of the Commission shall be construed as references to the giving or laying of the report as published.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): para (aa) inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 21.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(x), (19).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/119 Minority reports of Commission

119 Minority reports of Commission

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where, on a reference to the Commission under this Part, a member of a group constituted in connection with the reference in pursuance of paragraph 15 of Schedule 7 to the Competition Act 1998 (c 41), disagrees with any decisions contained in the report of the Commission

under this Part as the decisions of the Commission.

(2) The report shall, if the member so wishes, include a statement of his disagreement and of his reasons for disagreeing.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(y), (20).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[119A Other general functions of OFCOM in relation to this Part]

[Further provision about media mergers]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 385.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

[119A Other general functions of OFCOM in relation to this Part]

[(1) OFCOM have the function of obtaining, compiling and keeping under review information about matters relating to the carrying out of their functions under this Part.

(2) That function is to be carried out with a view to (among other things) ensuring that OFCOM have sufficient information to take informed decisions and to carry out their other functions effectively.

(3) In carrying out that function OFCOM may carry out, commission or support (financially or otherwise) research.

(4) Section 3 of the Communications Act 2003 (general duties of OFCOM) shall not apply in relation to functions of OFCOM under this Part.]

NOTES

Amendment

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 385.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(ya), (20A) (as inserted by SI 2003/3180, art 2, Schedule, para 10(1), (11), (15)).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/[119B Monitoring role for OFT in relation to media mergers]

[119B Monitoring role for OFT in relation to media mergers]

[(1) The OFT has the function of obtaining, compiling and keeping under review information about matters which may be relevant to the Secretary of State in deciding whether to give a special intervention notice mentioning a consideration specified in section 58(2A) to (2C).

(2) That function is to be carried out with a view to (among other things) ensuring that the Secretary of State is aware of cases where, in the opinion of the OFT, he might wish to consider giving such a notice.

(3) That function does not extend to obtaining, compiling or keeping under review information with a view to carrying out a detailed analysis in each case of the operation in relation to that case of the consideration specified in section 58(2A) to (2C).]

NOTES**Amendment**

Inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 386.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/120 Review of decisions under Part 3

Miscellaneous

120 Review of decisions under Part 3

(1) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the OFT, [OFCOM,] the Secretary of State or the Commission under this Part in connection with a reference or possible reference in relation to a relevant merger situation or a special merger situation may apply to the Competition Appeal Tribunal for a review of that decision.

(2) For this purpose "decision"--

(a) does not include a decision to impose a penalty under section 110(1) or (3); but

(b) includes a failure to take a decision permitted or required by this Part in connection with a reference or possible reference.

(3) Except in so far as a direction to the contrary is given by the Competition Appeal Tribunal, the effect of the decision is not suspended by reason of the making of the application.

(4) In determining such an application the Competition Appeal Tribunal shall apply the same principles as would be applied by a court on an application for judicial review.

(5) The Competition Appeal Tribunal may--

(a) dismiss the application or quash the whole or part of the decision to which it relates; and

(b) where it quashes the whole or part of that decision, refer the matter back to the original decision maker with a direction to reconsider and make a new decision in accordance with the ruling of the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

(6) An appeal lies on any point of law arising from a decision of the Competition Appeal Tribunal under this section to the appropriate court.

(7) An appeal under subsection (6) requires the permission of the Tribunal or the appropriate court.

(8) In this section--

"the appropriate court" means the Court of Appeal or, in the case of Tribunal proceedings in Scotland, the Court of Session; and

"Tribunal rules" has the meaning given by section 15(1).

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): reference to "OFCOM," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 22.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(z), (21).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 32.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

See further, the application of sub-ss (6)-(8) above, in relation to decisions of the Tribunal under the Energy Act 2004, Sch 18: the Energy Act 2004, s 141, Sch 18, para 15.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/121 Fees

121 Fees

(1) The Secretary of State may by order require the payment to him or the OFT of such fees as may be prescribed by the order in connection with the exercise by the Secretary of State, the OFT[, OFCOM] and the Commission of their functions under or by virtue of this Part. . . and sections 32 to 34 of, and Schedule 4ZA to, the Water Industry Act 1991 (c 56).

(2) An order under this section may, in particular, provide for fees to be payable--

- (a) in respect of a merger notice; [or]
- (b) . . .
- (c) on the occurrence of any event specified in the order.

(3) The events that may be specified in an order under this section by virtue of subsection (2)(c) include, in particular--

- (a) the decision by the OFT in relation to a possible reference under section 22 or 33 that it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created or (as the case may be) that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation;
- (b) the decision by the Secretary of State in relation to a possible reference under section 45 that it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created or (as the case may be) that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation;
- (c) the decision by the Secretary of State in relation to a possible reference under section 62 that--
 - (i) it is or may be the case that a special merger situation has been created or (as the case may be) that arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a special merger situation; and
 - (ii) one or more than one consideration mentioned in the special intervention notice is relevant to a consideration of the special merger situation concerned; and
- (d) the decision by the OFT in relation to a possible reference under section 32 of the Act of 1991 that it is or may be the case that arrangements are in progress which, if carried into effect, will result in a merger of any two or more water enterprises or that such a merger has taken place otherwise than as a result of the carrying into effect of arrangements that have been the subject of a reference by virtue of paragraph (a) of that section.

- (4) An order under this section may, in particular, contain provision--
- (a) for ascertaining the persons by whom fees are payable;
 - (b) specifying whether any fee is payable to the Secretary of State or the OFT;
 - (c) for the amount of any fee to be calculated by reference to matters which may include--
 - (i) . . .
 - (ii) . . . the value of the turnover of the enterprises concerned;
 - (d) as to the time when any fee is to be paid; and
 - (e) for the repayment by the Secretary of State or the OFT of the whole or part of any fee in specified circumstances.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4)(c)(ii) the turnover of an enterprise shall be determined in accordance with such provisions as may be specified in an order under this section.
- (6) Provision made by virtue of subsection (5) may, in particular, include provision--
- (a) as to the amounts which are, or which are not, to be treated as comprising an enterprise's turnover;
 - (b) as to the date or dates by reference to which an enterprise's turnover is to be determined;
 - (c) restricting the turnover to be taken into consideration to turnover which has a connection of a particular description with the United Kingdom.
- (7) An order under this section may, in particular, in connection with provisions of the kind mentioned in subsection (5) make provision enabling the Secretary of State or the OFT to determine matters of a description specified in the order (including any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (6)).
- (8) In determining the amount of any fees to be prescribed by an order under this section, the Secretary of State may take into account all costs incurred by him and by the OFT in respect of the exercise by him, the OFT[, OFCOM] and the Commission of their respective functions under or by virtue of this Part. . . and sections 32 to 34 of, and Schedule 4ZA to, the Act of 1991.
- (9) Fees paid to the Secretary of State or the OFT under this section shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.
- (10) . . .

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): reference to ", OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1),

Sch 16, para 23(1), (2)(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (1): words omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 360(3), 406(7), Sch 16, para 23(1), (2)(b), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (2): in para (a) word "or" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 23(1), (3)(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (2): para (b) repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 360(3), 406(7), Sch 16, para 23(1), (3)(b), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): para (c)(i) repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 360(3), 406(7), Sch 16, para 23(1), (4)(a), (b), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): in para (c)(ii) words omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 389(1), 406(7), Sch 16, para 23(1), (4)(c), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (8): reference to ", OFCOM" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 23(1), (5)(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (8): words omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 389(1), 406(7), Sch 16, para 23(1), (5)(b), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (10): repealed by the Communications Act 2003, ss 389(1), 406(7), Sch 16, para 23(1), (6), Sch 19(1).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of sub-ss (1), (3), (8) above, with modifications: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Commencement No 7 and Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2004, SI 2004/3233, arts 3-5. See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc

Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

Enterprise Act 2002 (Merger Fees and Determination of Turnover) Order 2003, SI 2003/1370.
 Enterprise Act 2002 (Merger Fees and Determination of Turnover) (Amendment) Order 2004, SI 2004/3204.
 Enterprise Act 2002 (Merger Fees) (Amendment) Order 2005, SI 2005/3558.
 Enterprise Act 2002 (Merger Fees) (Amendment) Order 2009, SI 2009/2396.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/122 Primacy of [EU] law

122 Primacy of [EU] law

- (1) Advice and information published by virtue of section 106(1) or (3) shall include such advice and information about the effect of [EU] law, and anything done under or in accordance with it, on the provisions of this Part as the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission considers appropriate.
- (2) Advice and information published by the OFT by virtue of section 106(1) shall, in particular, include advice and information about the circumstances in which the duties of the OFT under sections 22 and 33 do not apply as a result of the [EC Merger Regulation] or anything done under or in accordance with them.
- (3) The duty or power to make a reference under section 22 or 45(2) or (3), and the power to give an intervention notice under section 42, shall apply in a case in which the relevant enterprises ceased to be distinct enterprises at a time or in circumstances not falling within section 24 if the condition mentioned in subsection (4) is satisfied.
- (4) The condition mentioned in this subsection is that, because of the [EC Merger Regulation] or anything done under or in accordance with them, the reference, or (as the case may be) the reference under section 22 to which the intervention notice relates, could not have been made earlier than 4 months before the date on which it is to be made.
- (5) Where the duty or power to make a reference under section 22 or 45(2) or (3), or the power to give an intervention notice under section 42, applies as mentioned in subsection (3), references in this Part to the creation of a relevant merger situation shall be construed accordingly.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Section heading: reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

Sub-s (1): reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3)

thereof.

Sub-s (2): words "EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (24).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (4): words "EC Merger Regulation" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (24).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-ss (1)-(5) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 33.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/123 Power to alter share of supply test

123 Power to alter share of supply test

(1) The Secretary of State may by order amend or replace the conditions which determine for the purposes of this Part whether a relevant merger situation has been created.

(2) The Secretary of State shall not exercise his power under subsection (1)--

(a) to amend or replace the conditions mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of section 23;

(b) to amend or replace the condition mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of that section.

(3) In exercising his power under subsection (1) to amend or replace the condition mentioned in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 23 or any condition which for the time being applies instead of it, the Secretary of State shall, in particular, have regard to the desirability of ensuring that any amended or new condition continues to operate by reference to the degree of commercial strength which results from the enterprises concerned having ceased to be distinct.

(4) Before making an order under this section the Secretary of State shall consult the OFT and the Commission.

(5) An order under this section may provide for the delegation of functions to the decision-making authority.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(1)(g), (2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/124 Orders and regulations under Part 3

Other**124 Orders and regulations under Part 3**

- (1) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order or regulations under this Part shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (2) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order or regulations under this Part--
 - (a) may be exercised so as to make different provision for different cases or different purposes; and
 - (b) includes power to make such incidental, supplementary, consequential, transitory, transitional or saving provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (3) The power of the Secretary of State under section 34[, 59(6A)] or 123 (including that power as extended by subsection (2) above) may be exercised by modifying any enactment comprised in or made under this Act, or any other enactment.
- (4) The power of the Secretary of State under section 40(8), [44(11),] 52(8) (including that enactment as applied by section 65(3)), 58(3), 68 or 102 as extended by subsection (2) above may be exercised by modifying any enactment comprised in or made under this Act, or any other enactment.
- (5) An order made by the Secretary of State under section 28 (including that enactment as applied by section 42(5), 59(5) and 67(7)), 40(8), 52(8) (including that enactment as applied by section 65(3)), 111(4) or (6), 114(3)(b) or (4)(b) or 121 or Schedule 7 shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (6) No order shall be made by the Secretary of State under section 34, [44(11), 59(6A),] 68, 102, 123 or 128(6) unless a draft of it has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.
- (7) An order made by the Secretary of State under section 58(3) shall be laid before Parliament after being made and shall cease to have effect unless approved, within the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which it is made, by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (8) In calculating the period of 28 days mentioned in subsection (7), no account shall be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.
- (9) If an order made by the Secretary of State ceases to have effect by virtue of subsection (7), any modification made by it of an enactment is repealed (and the previous enactment revived) but without prejudice to the validity of anything done in connection with that modification before the order ceased to have effect and without prejudice to the making of a new order.

(10) If, apart from this subsection, an order made by the Secretary of State under section 58(3) would be treated for the purposes of the standing orders of either House of Parliament as a hybrid instrument, it shall proceed in that House as if it were not such an instrument.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (3): reference to ", 59(6A)" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 24(1), (2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): reference to "44(11)," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 24(1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (6): reference to "44(11), 59(6A)," in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 24(1), (4).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(aa), (22).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/125 Offences by bodies corporate

125 Offences by bodies corporate

(1) Where an offence under this Part committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of--

- (a) a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or
- (b) a person purporting to act in such a capacity,

he as well as the body corporate commits the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

(3) Where an offence under this Part is committed by a Scottish partnership and is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of a partner, he as well as the partnership commits the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(4) In subsection (3) "partner" includes a person purporting to act as a partner.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(bb), (23).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of references under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 3: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 5(1)(j), (5).

See further, in relation to the application of this section, for the purposes of any investigation by the Competition Commission for the purposes of the exercise of its functions under the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 9: the Water Services etc (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2005, SI 2005/3172, art 10(3)(j), (7).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/126 Service of documents

126 Service of documents

(1) Any document required or authorised by virtue of this Part to be served on any person may be served--

(a) by delivering it to him or by leaving it at his proper address or by sending it by post to him at that address;

(b) if the person is a body corporate other than a limited liability partnership, by serving it in accordance with paragraph (a) on the secretary of the body;

- (c) if the person is a limited liability partnership, by serving it in accordance with paragraph (a) on a member of the partnership; or
- (d) if the person is a partnership, by serving it in accordance with paragraph (a) on a partner or a person having the control or management of the partnership business.
- (2) For the purposes of this section and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 (c 30) (service of documents by post) in its application to this section, the proper address of any person on whom a document is to be served shall be his last known address, except that--
- (a) in the case of service on a body corporate (other than a limited liability partnership) or its secretary, it shall be the address of the registered or principal office of the body;
- (b) in the case of service on a limited liability partnership or a member of the partnership, it shall be the address of the registered or principal office of the partnership;
- (c) in the case of service on a partnership or a partner or a person having the control or management of a partnership business, it shall be the address of the principal office of the partnership.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) the principal office of a company constituted under the law of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom or of a partnership carrying on business outside the United Kingdom is its principal office within the United Kingdom.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if a person to be served under this Part with any document by another has specified to that other an address within the United Kingdom other than his proper address (as determined under subsection (2)) as the one at which he or someone on his behalf will accept documents of the same description as that document.
- (5) In relation to that document, that address shall be treated as his proper address for the purposes of this section and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 in its application to this section, instead of that determined under subsection (2).
- (6) Any notice in writing or other document required or authorised by virtue of this Part to be served on any person may be served on that person by transmitting the text of the notice or other document to him by means of [an electronic communications network] or by other means but while in electronic form provided the text is received by that person in legible form and is capable of being used for subsequent reference.
- (7) This section does not apply to any document if rules of court make provision about its service.
- (8) In this section references to serving include references to similar expressions (such as giving or sending).

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (6): words "an electronic communications network" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(1), Sch 17, para 174(1), (2).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the

spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts 2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2. Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(cc), (24).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/127 Associated persons

127 Associated persons

(1) Associated persons, and any bodies corporate which they or any of them control, shall be treated as one person--

(a) for the purpose of deciding under section 26 whether any two enterprises have been brought under common ownership or common control;

[(aa) for the purposes of section 58(2C); and]

(b) for the purpose of determining what activities are carried on by way of business by any one person so far as that question arises in connection with paragraph 13(2) of Schedule 8.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not exclude from section 26 any case which would otherwise fall within that section.

(3) A reference under section 22, 33, 45 or 62 (whether or not made by virtue of this section) may be framed so as to exclude from consideration, either altogether or for a specified purpose or to a specified extent, any matter which, apart from this section, would not have been taken into account on that reference.

(4) For the purposes of this section--

(a) any individual and that individual's spouse[, civil partner] or partner and any relative, or spouse[, civil partner] or partner of a relative, of that individual or of that individual's spouse[, civil partner] or partner;

(b) any person in his capacity as trustee of a settlement and the settlor or grantor and any person associated with the settlor or grantor;

(c) persons carrying on business in partnership and the spouse[, civil partner] or partner and relatives of any of them; or

(d) two or more persons acting together to secure or exercise control of a body of persons corporate or unincorporate or to secure control of any enterprise or assets,

shall be regarded as associated with one another.

(5) The reference in subsection (1) to bodies corporate which associated persons control shall be construed in accordance with section 26(3) and (4).

(6) In this section "relative" means a brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal ancestor or descendant (the stepchild of any person, or anyone adopted by a person, whether legally or otherwise, as his child being regarded as a relative or taken into account to trace a relationship in the same way as that person's child); and references to a spouse[, civil partner] or partner shall include a former spouse[, civil partner] or partner.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): para (aa) substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 375(3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): in paras (a), (c) words ", civil partner" in square brackets in each place they occur inserted by the Civil Partnership Act 2004, s 261(1), Sch 27, para 168.

Date in force: 5 December 2005: see SI 2005/3175, art 2(2).

Sub-s (6): words ", civil partner" in square brackets in both places they occur inserted by the Civil Partnership Act 2004, s 261(1), Sch 27, para 168.

Date in force: 5 December 2005: see SI 2005/3175, art 2(2).

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(dd), (25).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (3) above, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 34.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/128 Supply of services and market for services etc

128 Supply of services and market for services etc

(1) References in this Part to the supply of services shall be construed in accordance with this section; and references in this Part to a market for services and other related expressions shall be construed

accordingly.

- (2) The supply of services does not include the provision of services under a contract of service or of apprenticeship whether it is express or implied and (if it is express) whether it is oral or in writing.
- (3) The supply of services includes--
- (a) performing for gain or reward any activity other than the supply of goods;
 - (b) rendering services to order;
 - (c) the provision of services by making them available to potential users.
- (4) The supply of services includes making arrangements for the use of computer software or for granting access to data stored in any form which is not readily accessible.
- (5) The supply of services includes making arrangements by means of a relevant agreement (within the meaning of [paragraph 29 of Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984]) for sharing the use of telecommunications apparatus.
- (6) The supply of services includes permitting or making arrangements to permit the use of land in such circumstances as the Secretary of State may by order specify.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (5): words "paragraph 29 of Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(1), Sch 17, para 174(1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(ee), (26).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

Subordinate Legislation

Enterprise Act 2002 (Supply of Services) Order 2003, SI 2003/1594 (made under sub-s (6)).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/129 Other

interpretation provisions

129 Other interpretation provisions

(1) In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires--

"action" includes omission; and references to the taking of action include references to refraining from action;

"agreement" means any agreement or arrangement, in whatever way and whatever form it is made, and whether it is, or is intended to be, legally enforceable or not;

"business" includes a professional practice and includes any other undertaking which is carried on for gain or reward or which is an undertaking in the course of which goods or services are supplied otherwise than free of charge;

"change of circumstances" includes any discovery that information has been supplied which is false or misleading in a material respect;

"[EU] law" means--

(a) all the rights, powers, liabilities, obligations and restrictions from time to time created or arising by or under the [EU] Treaties; and

(b) all the remedies and procedures from time to time provided for by or under the [EU] Treaties;

"consumer" means any person who is--

(a) a person to whom goods are or are sought to be supplied (whether by way of sale or otherwise) in the course of a business carried on by the person supplying or seeking to supply them; or

(b) a person for whom services are or are sought to be supplied in the course of a business carried on by the person supplying or seeking to supply them;

and who does not receive or seek to receive the goods or services in the course of a business carried on by him;

"customer" includes a customer who is not a consumer;

["the EC Merger Regulation" means Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20th January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings;]

"enactment" includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland legislation and an enactment comprised in subordinate legislation, and includes an enactment whenever passed or made;

"enterprise" means the activities, or part of the activities, of a business;

...

"goods" includes buildings and other structures, and also includes ships, aircraft and hovercraft;

"modify" includes amend or repeal;

"notice" means notice in writing;

"price" includes any charge or fee (however described);

"subordinate legislation" has the same meaning as in the Interpretation Act 1978 (c 30) and also includes an instrument made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament and an instrument made under Northern Ireland legislation;

"subsidiary" has the meaning given by [section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006];

"supply", in relation to the supply of goods, includes supply by way of sale, lease, hire or hire-purchase, and, in relation to buildings or other structures, includes the construction of them by a person for another person;

["the UK financial system" means the financial system in the United Kingdom;] and

"United Kingdom national" means an individual who is--

- (a) a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British National (Overseas) or a British Overseas citizen;
- (b) a person who under the British Nationality Act 1981 (c 61) is a British subject; or
- (c) a British protected person within the meaning of that Act.

(2) For the purposes of this Part any two bodies corporate are interconnected if--

- (a) one of them is a body corporate of which the other is a subsidiary; or
- (b) both of them are subsidiaries of one and the same body corporate;

and in this Part "interconnected bodies corporate" shall be construed accordingly and "group of interconnected bodies corporate" means a group consisting of two or more bodies corporate all of whom are interconnected with each other.

(3) References in this Part to a person carrying on business include references to a person carrying on business in partnership with one or more other persons.

(4) Any duty to publish which is imposed on a person by this Part shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as a duty on that person to publish in such manner as he considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing the matter concerned to the attention of those likely to be affected by it.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (1): in definition "EU law" reference to "EU" in square brackets in the first place it occurs substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

Sub-s (1): in definition "EU law" in paras (a), (b) reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(1)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

Sub-s (1): definition "the EC Merger Regulation" inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (25) (b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (1): definition "the European Merger Regulations" (omitted) repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (25)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Sub-s (1): in definition "subsidiary" words "section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006" in square brackets substituted by SI 2009/1941, art 2(1), Sch 1, para 199(1), (3).

Date in force: 1 October 2009: see SI 2009/1941, art 1(2).

Sub-s (1): definition "the UK financial system" inserted by SI 2008/2645, art 3(1).

Date in force: 24 October 2008: see SI 2008/2645, art 1(1); for transitional provisions see art 1 (2) thereof.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003: the Enterprise Act 2002 (Protection of Legitimate Interests) Order 2003, SI 2003/1592, art 15, Sch 3, para 1(1)(ff), (27).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the application of sub-s (1) hereof, with modifications, for the purposes of water mergers and merger references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 35.

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 3 Mergers (ss 22-130)/130 Index of defined expressions

130 Index of defined expressions

In this Part, the expressions listed in the left-hand column have the meaning given by, or are to be interpreted in accordance with, the provisions listed in the right-hand column.

| <i>Expression</i> | <i>Provision of this Act</i> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Action (and the taking of action) | Section 129(1) |
| Adverse public interest finding | Section 54(3) |
| Agreement | Section 129(1) |
| Anti-competitive outcome | Section 35(2) |
| [Broadcasting | Section 44(9)] |
| Business (and carrying on business) | Section 129(1) and (3) |
| Change of circumstances | Section 129(1) |
| The Commission | Section 273 |
| [EU] law | Section 129(1) |

| | |
|--|--|
| Consumer | Section 129(1) |
| Customer | Section 129(1) |
| Date of reference | Section 39(9) |
| The decision-making authority | Section 22(7) |
| [EC Merger Regulation | Section 129(1)] |
| Enactment | Section 129(1) |
| Enforcement order | Section 86(6) |
| Enforcement undertaking | Section 89(2) |
| Enterprise | Section 129(1) |
| Enterprises ceasing to be distinct | Section 26(1) |
| ... | ... |
| Final determination of matter to which intervention notice relates | Section 43(4) and (5) |
| Final determination of matter to which special intervention notice relates | Section 60(4) and (5) |
| Final determination of reference under section 22 or 33 | Section 79(1) and (2) |
| Goods | Section 129(1) |
| Interconnected bodies corporate (and a group of interconnected bodies corporate) | Section 129(2) |
| Intervention notice | Section 42(2) |
| Market for goods or services | Section 22(6) |
| Market in the United Kingdom | Section 22(6) |
| [Media public interest consideration | Section 44(8)] |
| Merger notice | Section 96(2) |
| Modify | Section 129(1) |
| [Newspaper | Section 44(10)] |
| Newspaper enterprise | Section 58A(3)] |
| Notice | Section 129(1) |
| Notified arrangements | Section 96(6) |
| [OFCOM | Section 43(6)] |
| The OFT | Section 273 |
| Orders under section 81 | Section 81(6) |
| Orders under paragraph 2 of Schedule 7 | Paragraph 2(7) of Schedule 7 |
| The period for considering a merger notice | Sections 97 and 98 |
| Price | Section 129(1) |
| Public interest consideration | Sections 42(3) and 67(9) |
| Public interest consideration being finalised | Section 42(8) |
| Publish | Section 129(4) |
| References under section 22, 33, 45 or 62 | Sections 37(2), 49(1), 56(8) and 64(2) |
| Relevant customer benefit | Section 30 |
| Relevant merger situation | Section 23 (as read with other enactments) |
| Reports of the Commission | Section 118(5) |
| Special intervention notice | Section 59(2) |
| Special merger situation | Section 59(3) |
| Subordinate legislation | Section 129(1) |
| Subsidiary | Section 129(1) |
| Supply (in relation to the supply of goods) | Section 129(1) |
| The supply of services (and a market for services etc) | Section 128 |
| The turnover in the United Kingdom of an enterprise | Section 28(2) |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| [The UK financial system | Section 129(1)] |
| Undertakings under section 80 | Section 80(6) |
| Undertakings under paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 | Paragraph 1(7) of Schedule 7 |
| United Kingdom national | Section 129(1) |

NOTES**Initial Commencement***To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Entry relating to "Broadcasting" inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 25(1), (2).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

In entry relating to "EU law" in column 1 reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

Entry relating to "EC Merger Regulation" inserted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (26)(b).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Entry relating to "European Merger Regulations" (omitted) repealed by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (26)(a).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

Entry relating to "Media public interest consideration" inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 25(1), (3).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Entries relating to "Newspaper" and "Newspaper enterprise" inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 25(1), (4).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Entry relating to "OFCOM" inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 25(1), (5).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Entry relating to "The UK financial system" inserted by SI 2008/2645, art 3(2).

Date in force: 24 October 2008: see SI 2008/2645, art 1(1); for transitional provisions see art 1(2) thereof.

See Further

See further, in relation to England and Wales, the disapplication of this section in so far as relating to ss 28, 34A, 34B, Chapter 2 of Part 3, 59-68, 73-75, 96-102, 123 hereof for the purposes of water mergers and water references under the Water Industry Act 1991, s 32: the Water Mergers (Modification of Enactments) Regulations 2004, SI 2004/3202, regs 2, 3(2).

See further, in relation to the disapplication of this section for the purposes of the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008: the Bradford & Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc Order 2008, SI 2008/2546, art 40.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/131 Power of OFT to make references

Part 4

Market Investigations

**Chapter 1
Market Investigation References**

Making of references

131 Power of OFT to make references

(1) The OFT may, subject to subsection (4), make a reference to the Commission if the OFT has reasonable grounds for suspecting that any feature, or combination of features, of a market in the United Kingdom for goods or services prevents, restricts or distorts competition in connection with the supply or acquisition of any goods or services in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.

(2) For the purposes of this Part any reference to a feature of a market in the United Kingdom for goods or services shall be construed as a reference to--

- (a) the structure of the market concerned or any aspect of that structure;
- (b) any conduct (whether or not in the market concerned) of one or more than one person who supplies or acquires goods or services in the market concerned; or
- (c) any conduct relating to the market concerned of customers of any person who supplies or acquires goods or services.

(3) In subsection (2) "conduct" includes any failure to act (whether or not intentional) and any other unintentional conduct.

(4) No reference shall be made under this section if--

- (a) the making of the reference is prevented by section 156(1); or
- (b) a reference has been made under section 132 in relation to the same matter but has not been finally determined.

(5) References in this Part to a market investigation reference being finally determined shall be construed in accordance with section 183(3) to (6).

(6) In this Part--

"market in the United Kingdom" includes--

- (a) so far as it operates in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom, any market which operates there and in another country or territory or in a part of another country or territory; and
- (b) any market which operates only in a part of the United Kingdom;

"market investigation reference" means a reference under this section or section 132;

and references to a market for goods or services include references to a market for goods and services.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/132 Ministerial power to make references

132 Ministerial power to make references

- (1) Subsection (3) applies where, in relation to any goods or services, the appropriate Minister is not satisfied with a decision of the OFT not to make a reference under section 131.
- (2) Subsection (3) also applies where, in relation to any goods or services, the appropriate Minister—
 - (a) has brought to the attention of the OFT information which the appropriate Minister considers to be relevant to the question of whether the OFT should make a reference under section 131; but
 - (b) is not satisfied that the OFT will decide, within such period as the appropriate Minister considers to be reasonable, whether to make such a reference.
- (3) The appropriate Minister may, subject to subsection (4), make a reference to the Commission if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that any feature, or combination of features, of a market in the United Kingdom for goods or services prevents, restricts or distorts competition in connection with the supply or acquisition of any goods or services in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.
- (4) No reference shall be made under this section if the making of the reference is prevented by section 156(1).
- (5) In this Part "the appropriate Minister" means--
 - (a) the Secretary of State; or
 - (b) the Secretary of State and one or more than one other Minister of the Crown acting jointly.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/133 Contents of references

133 Contents of references

- (1) A market investigation reference shall, in particular, specify--

- (a) the enactment under which it is made;
- (b) the date on which it is made; and
- (c) the description of goods or services to which the feature or combination of features concerned relates.

(2) A market investigation reference may be framed so as to require the Commission to confine its investigation into the effects of features of markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services of a description specified in the reference to the effects of features of such of those markets as exist in connection with--

- (a) a supply, of a description specified in the reference, of the goods or services concerned; or
- (b) an acquisition, of a description specified in the reference, of the goods or services concerned.

(3) A description of the kind mentioned in subsection (2)(a) or (b) may, in particular, be by reference to--

- (a) the place where the goods or services are supplied or acquired; or
- (b) the persons by or to whom they are supplied or by or from whom they are acquired.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/134 Questions to be decided on market investigation references

Determination of references

134 Questions to be decided on market investigation references

(1) The Commission shall, on a market investigation reference, decide whether any feature, or combination of features, of each relevant market prevents, restricts or distorts competition in connection with the supply or acquisition of any goods or services in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, in relation to a market investigation reference, there is an adverse effect on competition if any feature, or combination of features, of a relevant market prevents, restricts or distorts competition in connection with the supply or acquisition of any goods or services in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) "relevant market" means--

- (a) in the case of subsection (2) so far as it applies in connection with a possible reference, a market in the United Kingdom--
 - (i) for goods or services of a description to be specified in the reference; and

- (ii) which would not be excluded from investigation by virtue of section 133(2); and
- (b) in any other case, a market in the United Kingdom--
 - (i) for goods or services of a description specified in the reference concerned; and
 - (ii) which is not excluded from investigation by virtue of section 133(2).
- (4) The Commission shall, if it has decided on a market investigation reference that there is an adverse effect on competition, decide the following additional questions--
 - (a) whether action should be taken by it under section 138 for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition;
 - (b) whether it should recommend the taking of action by others for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition; and
 - (c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.
- (5) For the purposes of this Part, in relation to a market investigation reference, there is a detrimental effect on customers if there is a detrimental effect on customers or future customers in the form of--
 - (a) higher prices, lower quality or less choice of goods or services in any market in the United Kingdom (whether or not the market to which the feature or features concerned relate); or
 - (b) less innovation in relation to such goods or services.
- (6) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsection (4), the Commission shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the adverse effect on competition and any detrimental effects on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition.
- (7) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsection (4), the Commission may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits of the feature or features of the market concerned.
- (8) For the purposes of this Part a benefit is a relevant customer benefit of a feature or features of a market if--
 - (a) it is a benefit to customers or future customers in the form of--
 - (i) lower prices, higher quality or greater choice of goods or services in any market in the United Kingdom (whether or not the market to which the feature or features concerned relate); or
 - (ii) greater innovation in relation to such goods or services; and
 - (b) the Commission, the Secretary of State or (as the case may be) the OFT believes that--
 - (i) the benefit has accrued as a result (whether wholly or partly) of the feature or features concerned or may be expected to accrue within a reasonable period as a result (whether wholly or partly) of that feature or those features; and
 - (ii) the benefit was, or is, unlikely to accrue without the feature or features concerned.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/135 Variation of market investigation references

135 Variation of market investigation references

- (1) The OFT or (as the case may be) the appropriate Minister may at any time vary a market investigation reference made by it or (as the case may be) him.
- (2) The OFT or (as the case may be) the appropriate Minister shall consult the Commission before varying any such reference.
- (3) Subsection (2) shall not apply if the Commission has requested the variation concerned.
- (4) No variation under this section shall be capable of altering the period permitted by section 137 within which the report of the Commission under section 136 is to be prepared and published or (as the case may be) the period permitted by section 144 within which the report of the Commission under section 142 is to be prepared and published or given.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/136 Investigations and reports on market investigation references

136 Investigations and reports on market investigation references

- (1) The Commission shall prepare and publish a report on a market investigation reference within the period permitted by section 137.
- (2) The report shall, in particular, contain--
 - (a) the decisions of the Commission on the questions which it is required to answer by virtue of section 134;
 - (b) its reasons for its decisions; and
 - (c) such information as the Commission considers appropriate for facilitating a proper understanding of those questions and of its reasons for its decisions.

- (3) The Commission shall carry out such investigations as it considers appropriate for the purposes of preparing a report under this section.
- (4) The Commission shall, at the same time as a report under this section is published--
- (a) in the case of a reference under section 131, give it to the OFT; and
 - (b) in the case of a reference under section 132, give it to the appropriate Minister and give a copy of it to the OFT.
- (5) Where a reference has been made by the OFT under section 131 or by the appropriate Minister under section 132 in circumstances in which a reference could have been made by a relevant sectoral regulator under section 131 as it has effect by virtue of a relevant sectoral enactment, the Commission shall, at the same time as the report under this section is published, give a copy of it to the relevant sectoral regulator concerned.
- (6) Where a reference has been made by a relevant sectoral regulator under section 131 as it has effect by virtue of a relevant sectoral enactment, the Commission shall, at the same time as the report under this section is published, give a copy of it to the OFT.
- (7) In this Part "relevant sectoral enactment" means--
- (a) . . .
 - (b) in relation to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, section 36A of the Gas Act 1986 (c 44) or (as the case may be) section 43 of the Electricity Act 1989 (c 29);
 - (c) in relation to [the Water Services Regulation Authority], section 31 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (c 56);
 - (d) . . .
 - (e) in relation to [the Office of Rail Regulation], section 67 of the Railways Act 1993 (c 43);
 - (f) . . .
 - (g) in relation to the Civil Aviation Authority, section 86 of the Transport Act 2000 (c 38);
 - [(h) in relation to the Office of Communications, sections 370 and 371 of the Communications Act 2003];
 - [(h) in relation to the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation, Article 46 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992, Article 23 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 or Article 29 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006].
- (8) In this Part "relevant sectoral regulator" means . . . the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority, [the Water Services Regulation Authority], . . ., [the Office of Rail Regulation], . . .[, the Civil Aviation Authority or the Office of Communications] [or the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation].
- (9) The Secretary of State may by order modify subsection (7) or (8).

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (7): para (a) repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts 2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2.
Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (7): in para (c) words "the Water Services Regulation Authority" in square brackets substituted by the Water Act 2003, s 101(1), Sch 7, Pt 2, para 36(1), (2).

Date in force: 1 April 2006: see SI 2005/2714, art 4(f).

Sub-s (7): para (d) repealed by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(2), Sch 13.

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (7): in para (e) words "the Office of Rail Regulation" in square brackets substituted by the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003, s 16(5), Sch 2, Pt 2, para 19(u); for savings see s 16(5), Sch 3 thereto.

Date in force: 5 July 2004: see SI 2004/827, art 4(g).

Sub-s (7): para (f) repealed by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(2), Sch 13.

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (7): para (h) inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(1), Sch 17, para 174(1), (4)(a).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts 2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2.
Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (7): second para (h) inserted by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(1), Sch 12, para 46(1).

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (8): first words omitted repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts 2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2.
Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (8): words "the Water Services Regulation Authority" in square brackets substituted by the Water Act 2003, s 101(1), Sch 7, Pt 2, para 36(1), (2).

Date in force: 1 April 2006: see SI 2005/2714, art 4(f).

Sub-s (8): second words omitted repealed by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(2), Sch 13.

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (8): words "the Office of Rail Regulation" in square brackets substituted by the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003, s 16(5), Sch 2, Pt 2, para 19(u); for savings see s 16(5), Sch 3 thereto.

Date in force: 5 July 2004: see SI 2004/827, art 4(g).

Sub-s (8): final words omitted repealed by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(2), Sch 13.

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (8): words ", the Civil Aviation Authority or the Office of Communications" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(1), Sch 17, para 174(1), (4)(b).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts 2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2.
Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (8): words "or the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation" in square brackets inserted by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(1), Sch 12, para 46 (2).

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/137 Time-limits for market investigations and reports

137 Time-limits for market investigations and reports

- (1) The Commission shall prepare and publish its report under section 136 within the period of two years beginning with the date of the market investigation reference concerned.
- (2) Subsection (1) is subject to section 151(3) and (5).
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsection (1) so as to alter the period of two years mentioned in that subsection or any period for the time being mentioned in that subsection in substitution for that period.
- (4) No alteration shall be made by virtue of subsection (3) which results in the period for the time being mentioned in subsection (1) exceeding two years.
- (5) An order under subsection (3) shall not affect any period of time within which the Commission is under a duty to prepare and publish its report under section 136 in relation to a market investigation reference if the Commission is already under that duty in relation to that reference when the order is made.
- (6) Before making an order under subsection (3) the Secretary of State shall consult the Commission and such other persons as he considers appropriate.
- (7) References in this Part to the date of a market investigation reference shall be construed as references to the date specified in the reference as the date on which it is made.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/138 Duty to remedy adverse effects

138 Duty to remedy adverse effects

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where a report of the Commission has been prepared and published under section 136 within the period permitted by section 137 and contains the decision that there is one or more than one adverse effect on competition.
- (2) The Commission shall, in relation to each adverse effect on competition, take such action under section 159 or 161 as it considers to be reasonable and practicable--
- (a) to remedy, mitigate or prevent the adverse effect on competition concerned; and
 - (b) to remedy, mitigate or prevent any detrimental effects on customers so far as they have resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition.
- (3) The decisions of the Commission under subsection (2) shall be consistent with its decisions as included in its report by virtue of section 134(4) unless there has been a material change of circumstances since the preparation of the report or the Commission otherwise has a special reason for deciding differently.
- (4) In making a decision under subsection (2), the Commission shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the adverse effect on

competition concerned and any detrimental effects on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition.

(5) In making a decision under subsection (2), the Commission may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits of the feature or features of the market concerned.

(6) The Commission shall take no action under subsection (2) to remedy, mitigate or prevent any detrimental effect on customers so far as it may be expected to result from the adverse effect on competition concerned if--

- (a) no detrimental effect on customers has resulted from the adverse effect on competition; and
- (b) the adverse effect on competition is not being remedied, mitigated or prevented.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/139 Public interest intervention by Secretary of State

Chapter 2 Public Interest Cases

Intervention notices

139 Public interest intervention by Secretary of State

- (1) The Secretary of State may give a notice to the Commission if--
- (a) a market investigation reference has been made to the Commission;
 - (b) no more than four months has passed since the date of the reference;
 - (c) the reference is not finally determined; and
 - (d) the Secretary of State believes that it is or may be the case that one or more than one public interest consideration is relevant to the case.
- (2) The Secretary of State may give a notice to the OFT if--
- (a) the OFT is considering whether to accept--
 - (i) an undertaking under section 154 instead of making a reference under section 131; or
 - (ii) an undertaking varying or superseding any such undertaking;
 - (b) the OFT has published a notice under section 155(1) or (4); and

- (c) the Secretary of State believes that it is or may be the case that one or more than one public interest consideration is relevant to the case.
- (3) In this Part "intervention notice" means a notice under subsection (1) or (2).
- (4) No more than one intervention notice shall be given under subsection (1) in relation to the same market investigation reference and no more than one intervention notice shall be given under subsection (2) in relation to the same proposed undertaking or in relation to proposed undertakings which do not differ from each other in any material respect.
- (5) For the purposes of this Part a public interest consideration is a consideration which, at the time of the giving of the intervention notice concerned, is specified in section 153 or is not so specified but, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, ought to be so specified.
- (6) Where the Secretary of State has given an intervention notice mentioning a public interest consideration which, at that time, is not finalised, he shall, as soon as practicable, take such action as is within his power to ensure that it is finalised.
- (7) For the purposes of this Part a public interest consideration is finalised if--
- (a) it is specified in section 153 otherwise than by virtue of an order under subsection (3) of that section; or
 - (b) it is specified in that section by virtue of an order under subsection (3) of that section and the order providing for it to be so specified has been laid before, and approved by, Parliament in accordance with subsection (6) of section 181 and within the period mentioned in that subsection.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/140 Intervention notices under section 139(1)

Intervention notices under section 139(1)

140 Intervention notices under section 139(1)

- (1) An intervention notice under section 139(1) shall state--
- (a) the market investigation reference concerned;
 - (b) the date of the market investigation reference concerned;
 - (c) the public interest consideration or considerations which are, or may be, relevant to the case; and
 - (d) where any public interest consideration concerned is not finalised, the proposed timetable for finalising it.
- (2) Where the Secretary of State believes that it is or may be the case that two or more public interest

considerations are relevant to the case, he may decide not to mention in the intervention notice such of those considerations as he considers appropriate.

(3) The Secretary of State may at any time revoke an intervention notice which has been given under section 139(1) and which is in force.

(4) An intervention notice under section 139(1) shall come into force when it is given and shall cease to be in force when the matter to which it relates is finally determined under this Chapter.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4) a matter to which an intervention notice under section 139(1) relates is finally determined under this Chapter if--

(a) the period permitted by section 144 for the preparation of the report of the Commission under section 142 and for action to be taken in relation to it under section 143(1) or (3) has expired and no such report has been so prepared or no such action has been taken;

(b) the Commission decides under section 145(1) to terminate its investigation;

(c) the report of the Commission has been prepared under section 142 and published under section 143(1) within the period permitted by section 144;

(d) the Secretary of State fails to make and publish a decision under subsection (2) of section 146 within the period required by subsection (3) of that section;

(e) the Secretary of State decides under section 146(2) that no eligible public interest consideration is relevant;

(f) the Secretary of State decides under section 147(2) neither to accept an undertaking under section 159 nor to make an order under section 161;

(g) the Secretary of State accepts an undertaking under section 159 or makes an order under section 161; or

(h) the Secretary of State decides to revoke the intervention notice concerned.

(6) For the purposes of subsections (4) and (5) the time when a matter to which an intervention notice under section 139(1) relates is finally determined under this Chapter is--

(a) in a case falling within subsection (5)(a) or (d), the expiry of the period concerned;

(b) in a case falling within subsection (5)(b), (e), (f) or (h), the making of the decision concerned;

(c) in a case falling within subsection (5)(c), the publication of the report concerned; and

(d) in a case falling within subsection (5)(g), the acceptance of the undertaking concerned or (as the case may be) the making of the order concerned.

(7) In subsection (6)(d) the reference to the acceptance of the undertaking concerned or the making of the order concerned shall, in a case where the enforcement action under section 147(2) involves the acceptance of a group of undertakings, the making of a group of orders or the acceptance and making of a group of undertakings and orders, be treated as a reference to the acceptance or making of the last undertaking or order in the group; but undertakings or orders which vary, supersede or revoke earlier undertakings or orders shall be disregarded for the purposes of subsections (5)(g) and (6)(d).

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/141 Questions to be decided by Commission

141 Questions to be decided by Commission

(1) This section applies where an intervention notice under section 139(1) is in force in relation to a market investigation reference.

(2) The Commission shall decide whether any feature, or combination of features, of each relevant market (within the meaning given by section 134(3)) prevents, restricts or distorts competition in connection with the supply or acquisition of any goods or services in the United Kingdom or a part of the United Kingdom.

(3) The Commission shall, if it has decided that there is an adverse effect on competition, decide the following additional questions--

(a) whether action should be taken by the Secretary of State under section 147 for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition;

(b) whether the Commission should recommend the taking of other action by the Secretary of State or action by persons other than itself and the Secretary of State for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition; and

(c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.

(4) The Commission shall, if it has decided that there is an adverse effect on competition, also decide separately the following questions (on the assumption that it is proceeding as mentioned in section 148 (1))--

(a) whether action should be taken by it under section 138 for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition;

(b) whether the Commission should recommend the taking of action by other persons for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition; and

(c) in either case, if action should be taken, what action should be taken and what is to be remedied, mitigated or prevented.

(5) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsections (3) and (4), the Commission shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the adverse effect on competition concerned and any detrimental effects on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition.

(6) In deciding the questions mentioned in subsections (3) and (4), the Commission may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits of the feature or features of the market concerned.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/142 Investigations and reports by Commission

142 Investigations and reports by Commission

(1) Where an intervention notice under section 139(1) is in force in relation to a market investigation reference, the Commission shall prepare a report on the reference and take action in relation to it under section 143(1) or (3) within the period permitted by section 144.

(2) The report shall, in particular, contain--

(a) the decisions of the Commission on the questions which it is required to answer by virtue of section 141;

(b) its reasons for its decisions; and

(c) such information as the Commission considers appropriate for facilitating a proper understanding of those questions and of its reasons for its decisions.

(3) The Commission shall carry out such investigations as it considers appropriate for the purposes of preparing a report under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/143 Publication etc of reports of Commission

143 Publication etc of reports of Commission

(1) The Commission shall publish a report under section 142 if it contains--

(a) the decision of the Commission that there is no adverse effect on competition; or

(b) the decisions of the Commission that there is one or more than one adverse effect on competition but, on the question mentioned in section 141(4)(a) and in relation to each adverse effect on competition, that no action should be taken by it.

(2) The Commission shall, at the same time as the report is published under subsection (1)--

(a) in the case of a reference under section 131, give it to the OFT; and

(b) in the case of a reference under section 132, give it to the appropriate Minister and give a copy of

it to the OFT.

(3) Where a report under section 142 contains the decisions of the Commission that there is one or more than one adverse effect on competition and, on the question mentioned in section 141(4)(a) and in relation to at least one such adverse effect, that action should be taken by it, the Commission shall give the report to the Secretary of State.

(4) The Secretary of State shall publish, no later than publication of his decision under section 146(2) in relation to the case, a report of the Commission given to him under subsection (3) and not required to be published by virtue of section 148(2).

(5) The Secretary of State shall, at the same time as a report of the Commission given to him under subsection (3) is published under subsection (4), give a copy of it--

(a) in the case of a reference under section 131, to the OFT; and

(b) in the case of a reference under section 132, to any other Minister of the Crown who made the reference and to the OFT.

(6) Where a reference has been made by the OFT under section 131 or by the appropriate Minister under section 132 in circumstances in which a reference could have been made by a relevant sectoral regulator under section 131 as it has effect by virtue of a relevant sectoral enactment, the relevant authority shall, at the same time as the report under section 142 is published under subsection (1) or (4), give a copy of it to the relevant sectoral regulator concerned.

(7) Where a reference has been made by a relevant sectoral regulator under section 131 as it has effect by virtue of a relevant sectoral enactment, the relevant authority shall, at the same time as the report under section 142 is published under subsection (1) or (4), give a copy of it to the OFT.

(8) In subsections (6) and (7) "the relevant authority" means--

(a) in the case of a report published under subsection (1), the Commission; and

(b) in the case of a report published under subsection (4), the Secretary of State.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/144 Time-limits for investigations and reports: Part 4

144 Time-limits for investigations and reports: Part 4

(1) The Commission shall, within the period of two years beginning with the date of the reference, prepare its report under section 142 and publish it under subsection (1) of section 143 or (as the case may be) give it to the Secretary of State under subsection (3) of that section.

(2) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsection (1) so as to alter the period of two years mentioned in that subsection or any period for the time being mentioned in that subsection in substitution for that period.

- (3) No alteration shall be made by virtue of subsection (2) which results in the period for the time being mentioned in subsection (1) exceeding two years.
- (4) An order under subsection (2) shall not affect any period of time within which, in relation to a market investigation reference, the Commission is under a duty to prepare its report under section 142 and take action in relation to it under section 143(1) or (3) if the Commission is already under that duty in relation to that reference when the order is made.
- (5) Before making an order under subsection (2) the Secretary of State shall consult the Commission and such other persons as he considers appropriate.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/145 Restrictions where public interest considerations not finalised: Part 4

145 Restrictions where public interest considerations not finalised: Part 4

- (1) The Commission shall terminate its investigation under section 142 if--
- (a) the intervention notice concerned mentions a public interest consideration which was not finalised on the giving of that notice or public interest considerations which, at that time, were not finalised;
 - (b) no other public interest consideration is mentioned in the notice;
 - (c) at least 24 weeks has elapsed since the giving of the notice; and
 - (d) the public interest consideration mentioned in the notice has not been finalised within that period of 24 weeks or (as the case may be) none of the public interest considerations mentioned in the notice has been finalised within that period of 24 weeks.
- (2) Where the intervention notice concerned mentions a public interest consideration which is not finalised on the giving of the notice, the Commission shall not give its report under section 142 to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 143(3) unless the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the intervention notice concerned has expired or the public interest consideration concerned has been finalised.
- (3) The Commission shall, in reporting on any of the questions mentioned in section 141(3), disregard any public interest consideration which has not been finalised before the giving of the report.
- (4) The Commission shall, in reporting on any of the questions mentioned in section 141(3), disregard any public interest consideration which was not finalised on the giving of the intervention notice concerned and has not been finalised within the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the notice concerned.
- (5) Subsections (1) to (4) are without prejudice to the power of the Commission to carry out investigations in relation to any public interest consideration to which it might be able to have regard in its report.

NOTES

Initial Commencement*To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/146 Decision of Secretary of State

146 Decision of Secretary of State

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State has received a report of the Commission which--

- (a) has been prepared under section 142;
- (b) contains the decisions that there is one or more than one adverse effect on competition and, on the question mentioned in section 141(4)(a) and in relation to at least one such adverse effect, that action should be taken by it; and
- (c) has been given to the Secretary of State as required by section 143(3).

(2) The Secretary of State shall decide whether--

- (a) any eligible public interest consideration is relevant; or
- (b) any eligible public interest considerations are relevant;

to any action which is mentioned in the report by virtue of section 141(4)(a) and (c) and which the Commission should take for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing any adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted or may be expected to result from any adverse effect on competition.

(3) The Secretary of State shall make and publish his decision under subsection (2) within the period of 90 days beginning with the receipt of the report of the Commission under section 142.

(4) In this section "eligible public interest consideration" means a public interest consideration which--

- (a) was mentioned in the intervention notice concerned; and
- (b) was not disregarded by the Commission for the purposes of its report under section 142.

NOTES**Initial Commencement***To be appointed*

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-

184)/147 Remedial action by Secretary of State

147 Remedial action by Secretary of State

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State--

(a) has decided under subsection (2) of section 146 within the period required by subsection (3) of that section that an eligible public interest consideration is relevant as mentioned in subsection (2) of that section or eligible public interest considerations are so relevant; and

(b) has published his decision within the period required by subsection (3) of that section.

(2) The Secretary of State may, in relation to any adverse effect on competition identified in the report concerned, take such action under section 159 or 161 as he considers to be--

(a) reasonable and practicable--

(i) to remedy, mitigate or prevent the adverse effect on competition concerned; or

(ii) to remedy, mitigate or prevent any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition; and

(b) appropriate in the light of the eligible public interest consideration concerned or (as the case may be) the eligible public interest considerations concerned.

(3) In making a decision under subsection (2), the Secretary of State shall, in particular, have regard to--

(a) the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the adverse effect on competition concerned and any detrimental effects on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition; and

(b) the report of the Commission under section 142.

(4) In having regard by virtue of subsection (3) to the report of the Commission under section 142, the Secretary of State shall not challenge the decision of the Commission contained in the report that there is one or more than one adverse effect on competition.

(5) In making a decision under subsection (2), the Secretary of State may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits of the feature or features of the market concerned.

(6) The Secretary of State shall take no action under subsection (2) to remedy, mitigate or prevent any detrimental effect on customers so far as it may be expected to result from the adverse effect on competition concerned if--

(a) no detrimental effect on customers has resulted from the adverse effect on competition; and

(b) the adverse effect on competition is not being remedied, mitigated or prevented.

(7) In this section "eligible public interest consideration" has the same meaning as in section 146.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/148 Reversion of the matter to the Commission

148 Reversion of the matter to the Commission

(1) If--

(a) the Secretary of State fails to make and publish his decision under subsection (2) of section 146 within the period required by subsection (3) of that section; or

(b) the Secretary of State decides that no eligible public interest consideration is relevant as mentioned in subsection (2) of that section;

the Commission shall proceed under section 138 as if the report had been prepared and published under section 136 within the period permitted by section 137.

(2) The Commission shall publish the report which has been prepared by it under section 142 (if still unpublished) as soon as it becomes able to proceed by virtue of subsection (1).

(3) The Commission shall, at the same time as its report is published under subsection (2), give a copy of it--

(a) in the case of a reference under section 131, to the OFT; and

(b) in the case of a reference under section 132, to any Minister of the Crown who made the reference (other than the Secretary of State) and to the OFT.

(4) Where a reference has been made by the OFT under section 131 or by the appropriate Minister under section 132 in circumstances in which a reference could have been made by a relevant sectoral regulator under section 131 as it has effect by virtue of a relevant sectoral enactment, the Commission shall, at the same time as its report is published under subsection (2), give a copy of it to the relevant sectoral regulator concerned.

(5) Where a reference has been made by a relevant sectoral regulator under section 131 as it has effect by virtue of a relevant sectoral enactment, the Commission shall, at the same time as its report is published under subsection (2), give a copy of it to the OFT.

(6) In relation to proceedings by virtue of subsection (1), the reference in section 138(3) to decisions of the Commission included in its report by virtue of section 134(4) shall be construed as a reference to decisions which were included in the report of the Commission by virtue of section 141(4).

(7) Where the Commission, in proceeding by virtue of subsection (1), intends to proceed in a way which is not consistent with its decisions as included in its report by virtue of section 141(4), it shall not so proceed without the consent of the Secretary of State.

(8) The Secretary of State shall not withhold his consent under subsection (7) unless he believes that the proposed alternative way of proceeding will operate against the public interest.

(9) For the purposes of subsection (8) a proposed alternative way of proceeding will operate against the public interest only if any eligible public interest consideration or considerations outweigh the considerations which have led the Commission to propose proceeding in that way.

(10) In deciding whether to withhold his consent under subsection (7), the Secretary of State shall accept the Commission's view of what, if the only relevant consideration were how to remedy, mitigate or prevent the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition, would be the most appropriate way to proceed.

(11) In this section "eligible public interest consideration" has the same meaning as in section 146.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/149 Intervention notices under section 139(2)

Intervention notices under section 139(2)**149 Intervention notices under section 139(2)**

- (1) An intervention notice under section 139(2) shall state--
- (a) the proposed undertaking which may be accepted by the OFT;
 - (b) the notice under section 155(1) or (4);
 - (c) the public interest consideration or considerations which are, or may be, relevant to the case; and
 - (d) where any public interest consideration concerned is not finalised, the proposed timetable for finalising it.
- (2) Where the Secretary of State believes that it is or may be the case that two or more public interest considerations are relevant to the case, he may decide not to mention in the intervention notice such of those considerations as he considers appropriate.
- (3) The Secretary of State may at any time revoke an intervention notice which has been given under section 139(2) and which is in force.
- (4) An intervention notice under section 139(2) shall come into force when it is given and shall cease to be in force on the occurrence of any of the events mentioned in subsection (5).
- (5) The events are--
- (a) the acceptance by the OFT with the consent of the Secretary of State of an undertaking which is the same as the proposed undertaking mentioned in the intervention notice by virtue of subsection (1)(a) or which does not differ from it in any material respect;
 - (b) the decision of the OFT to proceed neither with the proposed undertaking mentioned in the intervention notice by virtue of subsection (1)(a) nor a proposed undertaking which does not differ from it in any material respect; or
 - (c) the decision of the Secretary of State to revoke the intervention notice concerned.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/150 Power of veto of Secretary of State

150 Power of veto of Secretary of State

(1) Where an intervention notice under section 139(2) is in force, the OFT shall not, without the consent of the Secretary of State, accept the proposed undertaking concerned or a proposed undertaking which does not differ from it in any material respect.

(2) The Secretary of State shall withhold his consent if he believes that it is or may be the case that the proposed undertaking will, if accepted, operate against the public interest.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) a proposed undertaking will, if accepted, operate against the public interest only if any public interest consideration which is mentioned in the intervention notice concerned and has been finalised, or any public interest considerations which are so mentioned and have been finalised, outweigh the considerations which have led the OFT to propose accepting the undertaking.

(4) In making his decision under subsection (2) the Secretary of State shall accept the OFT's view of what undertakings, if the only relevant consideration were how to remedy, mitigate or prevent the adverse effect on competition concerned or any detrimental effect on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition, would be most appropriate.

(5) Where a public interest consideration which is mentioned in the intervention notice concerned is not finalised on the giving of the notice, the Secretary of State shall not make his decision as to whether to give his consent under this section before--

- (a) the end of the period of 24 weeks beginning with the giving of the intervention notice; or
- (b) if earlier, the date on which the public interest consideration concerned has been finalised.

(6) Subject to subsections (2) to (5), the Secretary of State shall not withhold his consent under this section.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/151 Further interaction of intervention notices with general procedure

Other**151 Further interaction of intervention notices with general procedure**

(1) Where an intervention notice under section 139(1) comes into force in relation to a market investigation reference, sections 134(1), (4), (6) and (7), 136(1) to (6), 137(1) to (6) and 138 shall cease to apply in relation to that reference.

- (2) Where the Secretary of State revokes an intervention notice which has been given under section 139 (1), the Commission shall instead proceed under sections 134 and 136 to 138.
- (3) Where the Commission is proceeding by virtue of subsection (2), the period within which the Commission shall prepare and publish its report under section 136 shall be extended by an additional period of 20 days.
- (4) Where the Commission terminates its investigation under section 145(1), the Commission shall proceed under sections 134 and 136 to 138.
- (5) Where the Commission is proceeding by virtue of subsection (4), the period within which the Commission shall prepare and publish its report under section 136 shall be extended by an additional period of 20 days.
- (6) In determining the period of 20 days mentioned in subsection (3) or (5) no account shall be taken of--
- (a) Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day; and
 - (b) any day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/152 Certain duties of OFT and Commission

152 Certain duties of OFT and Commission

- (1) The OFT shall, in considering whether to make a reference under section 131, bring to the attention of the Secretary of State any case which it believes raises any consideration specified in section 153 unless it believes that the Secretary of State would consider any such consideration immaterial in the context of the particular case.
- (2) The Commission shall, in investigating any reference made to it under section 131 or 132 within the previous four months, bring to the attention of the Secretary of State any case which it believes raises any consideration specified in section 153 unless it believes that the Secretary of State would consider any such consideration immaterial in the context of the particular case.
- (3) The OFT and the Commission shall bring to the attention of the Secretary of State any representations about exercising his power under section 153(3) which have been made to the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/153 Specified considerations: Part 4

153 Specified considerations: Part 4

- (1) The interests of national security are specified in this section.
- (2) In subsection (1) "national security" includes public security; and in this subsection "public security" has the same meaning as in article [21(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20th January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings].
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order modify this section for the purpose of specifying in this section a new consideration or removing or amending any consideration which is for the time being specified in this section.
- (4) An order under this section may apply in relation to cases under consideration by the OFT, by the Secretary of State, by the appropriate Minister (other than the Secretary of State acting alone) or by the Commission before the making of the order as well as cases under consideration on or after the making of the order.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): words from "21(4) of Council" to "concentrations between undertakings" in square brackets substituted by SI 2004/1079, reg 2, Schedule, para 2(1), (27).

Date in force: 1 May 2004: see SI 2004/1079, reg 1.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/154 Undertakings in lieu of market investigation references

**Chapter 3
Enforcement**

Undertakings and orders

154 Undertakings in lieu of market investigation references

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if the OFT considers that it has the power to make a reference under section 131 and otherwise intends to make such a reference.
- (2) The OFT may, instead of making such a reference and for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or

preventing--

- (a) any adverse effect on competition concerned; or
- (b) any detrimental effect on customers so far as it has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, the adverse effect on competition;

accept, from such persons as it considers appropriate, undertakings to take such action as it considers appropriate.

(3) In proceeding under subsection (2), the OFT shall, in particular, have regard to the need to achieve as comprehensive a solution as is reasonable and practicable to the adverse effect on competition concerned and any detrimental effects on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition.

(4) In proceeding under subsection (2), the OFT may, in particular, have regard to the effect of any action on any relevant customer benefits of the feature or features of the market concerned.

(5) The OFT shall take no action under subsection (2) to remedy, mitigate or prevent any detrimental effect on customers so far as it may be expected to result from the adverse effect on competition concerned if--

- (a) no detrimental effect on customers has resulted from the adverse effect on competition; and
- (b) the adverse effect on competition is not being remedied, mitigated or prevented.

(6) An undertaking under this section--

- (a) shall come into force when accepted;
- (b) may be varied or superseded by another undertaking; and
- (c) may be released by the OFT.

(7) The OFT shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it in relation to varying or releasing an undertaking under this section.

(8) This section is subject to sections 150 and 155.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/155 Undertakings in lieu: procedural requirements

155 Undertakings in lieu: procedural requirements

(1) Before accepting an undertaking under section 154 (other than an undertaking under that section which varies an undertaking under that section but not in any material respect), the OFT shall--

- (a) publish notice of the proposed undertaking; and

- (b) consider any representations made in accordance with the notice and not withdrawn.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) shall state--
- (a) that the OFT proposes to accept the undertaking;
 - (b) the purpose and effect of the undertaking;
 - (c) the situation that the undertaking is seeking to deal with;
 - (d) any other facts which the OFT considers justify the acceptance of the undertaking;
 - (e) a means of gaining access to an accurate version of the proposed undertaking at all reasonable times; and
 - (f) the period (not less than 15 days starting with the date of publication of the notice) within which representations may be made in relation to the proposed undertaking.
- (3) The matters to be included in a notice under subsection (1) by virtue of subsection (2) shall, in particular, include--
- (a) the terms of the reference under section 131 which the OFT considers that it has power to make and which it otherwise intends to make; and
 - (b) the adverse effect on competition, and any detrimental effect on customers so far as resulting from the adverse effect on competition, which the OFT has identified.
- (4) The OFT shall not accept the undertaking with modifications unless it--
- (a) publishes notice of the proposed modifications; and
 - (b) considers any representations made in accordance with the notice and not withdrawn.
- (5) A notice under subsection (4) shall state--
- (a) the proposed modifications;
 - (b) the reasons for them; and
 - (c) the period (not less than 7 days starting with the date of the publication of the notice under subsection (4)) within which representations may be made in relation to the proposed modifications.
- (6) If, after publishing notice under subsection (1) or (4), the OFT decides--
- (a) not to accept the undertaking concerned; and
 - (b) not to proceed by virtue of subsection (8) or (9);
- it shall publish notice of that decision.
- (7) As soon as practicable after accepting an undertaking to which this section applies, the OFT shall--
- (a) serve a copy of the undertaking on any person by whom it is given; and
 - (b) publish the undertaking.
- (8) The requirements of subsection (4) (and those of subsection (1)) shall not apply if the OFT--
- (a) has already published notice under subsection (1) but not subsection (4) in relation to the proposed undertaking; and

- (b) considers that the modifications which are now being proposed are not material in any respect.
- (9) The requirements of subsection (4) (and those of subsection (1)) shall not apply if the OFT--
 - (a) has already published notice under subsections (1) and (4) in relation to the matter concerned; and
 - (b) considers that the further modifications which are now being proposed do not differ in any material respect from the modifications in relation to which notice was last given under subsection (4).
- (10) Paragraphs 6 to 8 (but not paragraph 9) of Schedule 10 (procedural requirements before terminating undertakings) shall apply in relation to the proposed release of undertakings under section 154 (other than in connection with accepting an undertaking under that section which varies or supersedes an undertaking under that section) as they apply in relation to the proposed release of undertakings under section 73.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/156 Effect of undertakings under section 154

156 Effect of undertakings under section 154

- (1) No market investigation reference shall be made by the OFT or the appropriate Minister in relation to any feature, or combination of features, of a market in the United Kingdom for goods or services if--
 - (a) the OFT has accepted an undertaking or group of undertakings under section 154 within the previous 12 months; and
 - (b) the goods or services to which the undertaking or group of undertakings relates are of the same description as the goods or services to which the feature, or combination of features, relates.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not prevent the making of a market investigation reference if--
 - (a) the OFT considers that any undertaking concerned has been breached and has given notice of that fact to the person responsible for giving the undertaking; or
 - (b) the person responsible for giving any undertaking concerned supplied, in connection with the matter, information to the OFT which was false or misleading in a material respect.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/157 Interim undertakings: Part 4

157 Interim undertakings: Part 4

(1) Subsection (2) applies where--

- (a) a market investigation reference has been made;
- (b) a report has been published under section 136 within the period permitted by section 137 or (as the case may be) a report prepared under section 142 and given to the Secretary of State under section 143(3) within the period permitted by section 144 has been published; and
- (c) the market investigation reference concerned is not finally determined.

(2) The relevant authority may, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action, accept, from such persons as the relevant authority considers appropriate, undertakings to take such action as the relevant authority considers appropriate.

(3) An undertaking under this section--

- (a) shall come into force when accepted;
- (b) may be varied or superseded by another undertaking; and
- (c) may be released by the relevant authority.

(4) An undertaking under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force, cease to be in force when the market investigation reference is finally determined.

(5) The relevant authority shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by the relevant authority in relation to varying or releasing an undertaking under this section.

(6) In this section and section 158--

"pre-emptive action" means action which might impede the taking of any action under section 138(2) or (as the case may be) 147(2) in relation to the market investigation reference concerned; and

"the relevant authority" means--

- (a) where an intervention notice is in force in relation to the market investigation reference, the Secretary of State;
- (b) in any other case, the Commission.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/158 Interim orders: Part 4

158 Interim orders: Part 4

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where--
- (a) a market investigation reference has been made;
 - (b) a report has been published under section 136 within the period permitted by section 137 or (as the case may be) a report prepared under section 142 and given to the Secretary of State under section 143(3) within the period permitted by section 144 has been published; and
 - (c) the market investigation reference concerned is not finally determined.
- (2) The relevant authority may by order, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action--
- (a) prohibit or restrict the doing of things which the relevant authority considers would constitute pre-emptive action;
 - (b) impose on any person concerned obligations as to the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets;
 - (c) provide for the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets either by the appointment of a person to conduct or supervise the conduct of any activities (on such terms and with such powers as may be specified or described in the order) or in any other manner;
 - (d) do anything which may be done by virtue of paragraph 19 of Schedule 8.
- (3) An order under this section--
- (a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order; and
 - (b) may be varied or revoked by another order.
- (4) An order under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force, cease to be in force when the market investigation reference is finally determined.
- (5) The relevant authority shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by the relevant authority in relation to varying or revoking an order under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/159 Final undertakings: Part 4

159 Final undertakings: Part 4

- (1) The Commission may, in accordance with section 138, accept, from such persons as it considers

appropriate, undertakings to take action specified or described in the undertakings.

- (2) The Secretary of State may, in accordance with section 147, accept, from such persons as he considers appropriate, undertakings to take action specified or described in the undertakings.
- (3) An undertaking under this section shall come into force when accepted.
- (4) An undertaking under subsection (1) or (2) may be varied or superseded by another undertaking under that subsection.
- (5) An undertaking under subsection (1) may be released by the Commission and an undertaking under subsection (2) may be released by the Secretary of State.
- (6) The Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by it or (as the case may be) him in relation to varying or releasing an undertaking under this section.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/160 Order-making power where final undertakings not fulfilled: Part 4

160 Order-making power where final undertakings not fulfilled: Part 4

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the relevant authority considers that--
 - (a) an undertaking accepted by the relevant authority under section 159 has not been, is not being or will not be fulfilled; or
 - (b) in relation to an undertaking accepted by the relevant authority under that section, information which was false or misleading in a material respect was given to the relevant authority or the OFT by the person giving the undertaking before the relevant authority decided to accept the undertaking.
- (2) The relevant authority may, for any of the purposes mentioned in section 138(2) or (as the case may be) 147(2), make an order under this section.
- (3) Subsections (3) to (6) of section 138 or (as the case may be) 147 shall apply for the purposes of subsection (2) above as they apply for the purposes of that section.
- (4) An order under this section may contain--
 - (a) anything permitted by Schedule 8; and
 - (b) such supplementary, consequential or incidental provision as the relevant authority considers appropriate.
- (5) An order under this section--
 - (a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order;
 - (b) may contain provision which is different from the provision contained in the undertaking

concerned; and

(c) may be varied or revoked by another order.

(6) No order shall be varied or revoked under this section unless the OFT advises that such a variation or revocation is appropriate by reason of a change of circumstances.

(7) In this section "the relevant authority" means--

(a) in the case of an undertaking accepted under section 159 by the Commission, the Commission;
and

(b) in the case of an undertaking accepted under that section by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/161 Final orders: Part 4

161 Final orders: Part 4

(1) The Commission may, in accordance with section 138, make an order under this section.

(2) The Secretary of State may, in accordance with section 147, make an order under this section.

(3) An order under this section may contain--

(a) anything permitted by Schedule 8; and

(b) such supplementary, consequential or incidental provision as the person making it considers appropriate.

(4) An order under this section--

(a) shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order; and

(b) may be varied or revoked by another order.

(5) No order shall be varied or revoked under this section unless the OFT advises that such a variation or revocation is appropriate by reason of a change of circumstances.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/162 Duty of OFT to monitor undertakings and orders: Part 4

Enforcement functions of OFT**162 Duty of OFT to monitor undertakings and orders: Part 4**

- (1) The OFT shall keep under review the carrying out of any enforcement undertaking or any enforcement order.
- (2) The OFT shall, in particular, from time to time consider--
- (a) whether an enforcement undertaking or enforcement order has been or is being complied with;
 - (b) whether, by reason of any change of circumstances, an enforcement undertaking is no longer appropriate and--
 - (i) one or more of the parties to it can be released from it; or
 - (ii) it needs to be varied or to be superseded by a new enforcement undertaking; and
 - (c) whether, by reason of any change of circumstances, an enforcement order is no longer appropriate and needs to be varied or revoked.
- (3) The OFT shall give the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State such advice as it considers appropriate in relation to--
- (a) any possible variation or release by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State of an enforcement undertaking accepted by it or (as the case may be) him;
 - (b) any possible new enforcement undertaking to be accepted by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State so as to supersede another enforcement undertaking given to the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State;
 - (c) any possible variation or revocation by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State of an enforcement order made by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State;
 - (d) any possible enforcement undertaking to be accepted by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State instead of an enforcement order or any possible enforcement order to be made by the Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State instead of an enforcement undertaking; or
 - (e) the enforcement by virtue of section 167(6) to (8) of any enforcement undertaking or enforcement order.
- (4) The OFT shall take such action as it considers appropriate in relation to--
- (a) any possible variation or release by it of an undertaking accepted by it under section 154;
 - (b) any possible new undertaking to be accepted by it under section 154 so as to supersede another undertaking given to it under that section; or
 - (c) the enforcement by it by virtue of section 167(6) of any enforcement undertaking or enforcement order.

(5) The OFT shall keep under review the effectiveness of enforcement undertakings accepted under this Part and enforcement orders made under this Part.

(6) The OFT shall, whenever requested to do so by the Secretary of State and otherwise from time to time, prepare a report of its findings under subsection (5).

(7) The OFT shall--

- (a) give any report prepared by it under subsection (6) to the Commission;
- (b) give a copy of the report to the Secretary of State; and
- (c) publish the report.

(8) In this Part--

"enforcement order" means an order made under section 158, 160 or 161; and

"enforcement undertaking" means an undertaking accepted under section 154, 157 or 159.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/163 Further role of OFT in relation to undertakings and orders: Part 4

163 Further role of OFT in relation to undertakings and orders: Part 4

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply where the Commission or the Secretary of State (in this section "the relevant authority") is considering whether to accept undertakings under section 157 or 159.

(2) The relevant authority may require the OFT to consult with such persons as the relevant authority considers appropriate with a view to discovering whether they will offer undertakings which the relevant authority would be prepared to accept under section 157 or (as the case may be) 159.

(3) The relevant authority may require the OFT to report to the relevant authority on the outcome of the OFT's consultations within such period as the relevant authority may require.

(4) A report under subsection (3) shall, in particular, contain advice from the OFT as to whether any undertakings offered should be accepted by the relevant authority under section 157 or (as the case may be) 159.

(5) The powers conferred on the relevant authority by subsections (1) to (4) are without prejudice to the power of the relevant authority to consult the persons concerned itself.

(6) If asked by the relevant authority for advice in relation to the taking of enforcement action (whether or not by way of undertakings) in a particular case, the OFT shall give such advice as it considers appropriate.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/164 Enforcement undertakings and orders under this Part: general provisions

Supplementary

164 Enforcement undertakings and orders under this Part: general provisions

- (1) The provision which may be contained in an enforcement undertaking is not limited to the provision which is permitted by Schedule 8.
- (2) The following enactments in Part 3 shall apply in relation to enforcement orders under this Part as they apply in relation to enforcement orders under that Part--
 - (a) section 86(1) to (5) (enforcement orders: general provisions); and
 - (b) section 87 (power of directions conferred by enforcement order).
- (3) An enforcement order under section 160 or 161 or any explanatory material accompanying the order shall state--
 - (a) the actions that the persons or description of persons to whom the order is addressed must do or (as the case may be) refrain from doing;
 - (b) the date on which the order comes into force;
 - (c) the possible consequences of not complying with the order; and
 - (d) the section of this Part under which a review can be sought in relation to the order.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/165 Procedural requirements for certain undertakings and orders: Part 4

165 Procedural requirements for certain undertakings and orders: Part 4

Schedule 10 (procedural requirements for certain undertakings and orders), other than paragraph 9 of that Schedule, shall apply in relation to undertakings under section 159 and orders under section 160 or 161 as it applies in relation to undertakings under section 82 and orders under section 83 or 84.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/166 Register of undertakings and orders: Part 4

166 Register of undertakings and orders: Part 4

- (1) The OFT shall compile and maintain a register for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) The register shall be kept in such form as the OFT considers appropriate.
- (3) The OFT shall ensure that the following matters are entered in the register--
 - (a) the provisions of any enforcement undertaking accepted by virtue of this Part (whether by the OFT, the Commission, the Secretary of State or a relevant sectoral regulator);
 - (b) the provisions of any enforcement order made by virtue of this Part (whether by the Commission, the Secretary of State or a relevant sectoral regulator); and
 - (c) the details of any variation, release or revocation of such an undertaking or order.
- (4) The duty in subsection (3) does not extend to anything of which the OFT is unaware.
- (5) The Commission, the Secretary of State and any relevant sectoral regulator shall inform the OFT of any matters which are to be included in the register by virtue of subsection (3) and which relate to enforcement undertakings accepted by them or enforcement orders made by them.
- (6) The OFT shall ensure that the contents of the register are available to the public--
 - (a) during (as a minimum) such hours as may be specified in an order made by the Secretary of State; and
 - (b) subject to such reasonable fees (if any) as the OFT may determine.
- (7) If requested by any person to do so and subject to such reasonable fees (if any) as the OFT may determine, the OFT shall supply the person concerned with a copy (certified to be true) of the register or of an extract from it.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Subordinate Legislation

OFT Registers of Undertakings and Orders (Available Hours) Order 2003, SI 2003/1373 (made under subs (6)).

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/167 Rights to enforce undertakings and orders under this Part

167 Rights to enforce undertakings and orders under this Part

- (1) This section applies to any enforcement undertaking or enforcement order.
- (2) Any person to whom such an undertaking or order relates shall have a duty to comply with it.
- (3) The duty shall be owed to any person who may be affected by a contravention of the undertaking or (as the case may be) order.
- (4) Any breach of the duty which causes such a person to sustain loss or damage shall be actionable by him.
- (5) In any proceedings brought under subsection (4) against a person to whom an enforcement undertaking or enforcement order relates it shall be a defence for that person to show that he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid contravening the undertaking or (as the case may be) order.
- (6) Compliance with an enforcement undertaking or an enforcement order shall also be enforceable by civil proceedings brought by the OFT for an injunction or for interdict or for any other appropriate relief or remedy.
- (7) Compliance with an undertaking accepted under section 157 or 159, or an order under section 158, 160 or 161, shall also be enforceable by civil proceedings brought by the relevant authority for an injunction or for interdict or for any other appropriate relief or remedy.
- (8) In subsection (7) "the relevant authority" means--
 - (a) in the case of an undertaking accepted by the Commission or an order made by the Commission, the Commission; and
 - (b) in the case of an undertaking accepted by the Secretary of State or an order made by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State.
- (9) Subsections (6) to (8) shall not prejudice any right that a person may have by virtue of subsection (4) to bring civil proceedings for contravention or apprehended contravention of an enforcement undertaking or an enforcement order.

NOTES**Initial Commencement**

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/168 Regulated markets

Chapter 4 Supplementary

Regulated markets

168 Regulated markets

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the Commission or the Secretary of State is considering for the purposes of this Part whether relevant action would be reasonable and practicable for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing an adverse effect on competition or any detrimental effect on customers so far as resulting from such an effect.

(2) The Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State shall, in deciding whether such action would be reasonable and practicable, have regard to the relevant statutory functions of the sectoral regulator concerned.

(3) In this section "relevant action" means--

- (a) . . .
- (b) modifying conditions in force under Part 4 of the Airports Act 1986 (c 31) other than any conditions imposed or modified in pursuance of section 40(3) or (4) of that Act;
- (c) modifying the conditions of a licence granted under section 7 or 7A of the Gas Act 1986 (c 44);
- (d) modifying the conditions of a licence granted under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 (c 29);
- (e) modifying networking arrangements (within the meaning given by [section 290 of the Communications Act 2003]);
- (f) modifying the conditions of a company's appointment under Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (c 56);
- [(ff) modifying the conditions of a licence granted under Chapter 1A of Part 2 of the Act of 1991 or modifying the terms and conditions of an agreement under section 66D of that Act;]
- (g) modifying the conditions of a licence granted under article 10 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (SI 1992/231 (NI 1));
- (h) modifying the conditions of a licence granted under section 8 of the Railways Act 1993 (c 43);
- [(hh) modifying the conditions of a SNRP issued pursuant to the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005;]
- (i) modifying an access agreement (within the meaning given by section 83(1) of the Act of 1993) or a franchise agreement (within the meaning given by section 23(3) of that Act);
- (j) modifying conditions in force under Part 4 of the Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (SI 1994/426 (NI 1)) other than any conditions imposed or modified in pursuance of article 40(3) or (4) of that Order;
- (k) modifying the conditions of a licence granted under article 8 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (SI 1996/275 (NI 2));
- (l) *modifying the conditions of a licence granted under section 11 of the Postal Services Act 2000 (c 26); or*

- (m) modifying the conditions of a licence granted under section 5 of the Transport Act 2000 (c 38);
- [(n) modifying the conditions of a company's appointment under Chapter I of Part III of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006];
- [(o) modifying regulatory conditions imposed under Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011].
- (4) In this section "relevant statutory functions" means--
- (a) . . .
- (b) in relation to conditions in force under Part 4 of the Airports Act 1986 (c 31) other than any conditions imposed or modified in pursuance of section 40(3) or (4) of that Act, the duties of the Civil Aviation Authority under section 39(2) and (3) of that Act;
- (c) in relation to any licence granted under section 7 or 7A of the Gas Act 1986 (c 44), the objectives and duties of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority under section 4AA and 4AB(2) of that Act;
- (d) in relation to any licence granted under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 (c 29), the objectives and duties of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority under section 3A and 3B(2) of that Act;
- [(e) in relation to any networking arrangements (within the meaning given by section 290 of the Communications Act 2003), the duty of the Office of Communications under subsection (1) of section 3 of that Act to secure the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(c) of that section;]
- (f) in relation to a company's appointment under Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (c 56), the duties of [the Water Services Regulation Authority] under section 2 of that Act;
- [(ff) in relation to a licence granted under Chapter 1A of Part 2 of the Act of 1991 or an agreement under section 66D of that Act, the duties of the Authority under section 2 of that Act or under that section and section 66D of that Act (as the case may be);]
- (g) in relation to any licence granted under article 10 of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (SI 1992/231 (NI 1)), the duty of the Director General of Electricity Supply for Northern Ireland under article 6 of that Order;
- (h) in relation to any licence granted under section 8 of the Railways Act 1993 (c 43). . . , the duties of [the Office of Rail Regulation] under section 4 of that Act;
- [(hh) in relation to a SNRP issued pursuant to the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 where none of the conditions of the SNRP relate to consumer protection, the duties of the Department for Regional Development under regulation 36 of those Regulations;]
- (i) . . .
- (j) in relation to any access agreement (within the meaning given by section 83(1) of the Act of 1993), the duties of [the Office of Rail Regulation] under section 4 of the Act of 1993;
- (k) in relation to any franchise agreement (within the meaning given by section 23(3) of the Act of 1993), the duties of the [Secretary of State, the Scottish Ministers and the National Assembly for Wales under section 4 of the Act of 1993];
- (l) in relation to conditions in force under Part 4 of the Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (SI 1994/426 (NI 1)) other than any conditions imposed or modified in pursuance of article 40(3) or (4) of that Order, the duties of the Civil Aviation Authority under article 30(2) and (3) of that Order;
- (m) in relation to any licence granted under article 8 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (SI 1996/275 (NI 2)), the duties of the Director General of Gas for Northern Ireland under article 5 of that Order;
- (n) *in relation to any licence granted under section 11 of the Postal Services Act 2000 (c 26), the duties of the Postal Services Commission under sections 3 and 5 of that Act; and*

(o) in relation to any licence granted under section 5 of the Transport Act 2000, the duties of the Civil Aviation Authority under section 87 of that Act;

[(p) in relation to a company's appointment under Chapter I of Part III of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, the duties of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation under Article 6 of that Order];

[(q) in relation to regulatory conditions imposed under Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011, the duty of the Office of Communications under section 29 of that Act].

(5) In this section "sectoral regulator" means--

(a) the Civil Aviation Authority;

[(b) the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation;]

(d) . . .

[(e) the Water Services Regulation Authority;]

(f) the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority;

[(g) the Office of Communications;]

(h) *the Postal Services Commission*;

(i) [the Office of Rail Regulation]; . . .

[(j) the Secretary of State;

(k) the Scottish Ministers; or

(l) the National Assembly for Wales].

(6) Subsection (7) applies where the Commission or the Secretary of State is considering for the purposes of this Part whether modifying the conditions of a licence granted under section 7 or 7A of the Gas Act 1986 (c 44) or section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 (c 29) would be reasonable and practicable for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing an adverse effect on competition or any detrimental effect on customers so far as resulting from such an effect.

(7) The Commission or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State may, in deciding whether modifying the conditions of such a licence would be reasonable and practicable, have regard to those matters to which the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority may have regard by virtue of section 4AA(4) of the Act of 1986 or (as the case may be) section 3A(4) of the Act of 1989.

(8) The Secretary of State may by order modify subsection (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7).

(9) Part 2 of Schedule 9 (which makes provision for functions under this Part to be exercisable by various sectoral regulators) shall have effect.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (3): para (a) repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts 2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2.
Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1; for transitional provisions see the Communications Act 2003, s 406(6), Sch 18, paras 3, 4, 9, 11-14, 16-18, 64.

Sub-s (3): in para (e) words "section 290 of the Communications Act 2003" in square brackets substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(1), Sch 17, para 174(1), (5)(a).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (3): para (ff) inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 101(1), Sch 8, para 55(1), (2)(a).

Date in force: 1 December 2005: see SI 2005/2714, art 3(c).

Sub-s (3): para (hh) inserted by the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, SR 2005/537, reg 45, Sch 5, para 4(a).

Date in force: 3 January 2006: see the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, SR 2005/537, reg 1 (1).

Sub-s (3): para (l) repealed by the Postal Services Act 2011, s 91(1), (2), Sch 12, Pt 3, paras 163, 164(1), (2)(a).

Date in force: to be appointed: see the Postal Services Act 2011, s 93(3).

Sub-s (3): para (n) inserted by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(1), Sch 12, para 46(3).

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (3): para (o) inserted by the Postal Services Act 2011, s 91(1), (2), Sch 12, Pt 3, paras 163, 164(1), (2)(b).

Date in force: to be appointed: see the Postal Services Act 2011, s 93(3).

Sub-s (4): para (a) repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts

2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2.
Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1;
for transitional provisions see the Communications Act 2003, s 406(6), Sch 18, paras 3, 4, 9,
11-14, 16-18, 64.

Sub-s (4): para (e) substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(1), Sch 17, para 174(1), (5)(b).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): in para (f) words "the Water Services Regulation Authority" in square brackets substituted by the
Water Act 2003, s 101(1), Sch 7, Pt 2, para 36(1), (3)(a).

Date in force: 1 April 2006: see SI 2005/2714, art 4(f).

Sub-s (4): para (ff) inserted by the Water Act 2003, s 101(1), Sch 8, para 55(1), (2)(b).

Date in force: 1 December 2005: see SI 2005/2714, art 3(c).

Sub-s (4): in para (h) words omitted repealed by the Railways Act 2005, s 59(1), (6), Sch 12, para 18(1),
(2)(a), Sch 13, Pt 1.

Date in force: 24 July 2005: see SI 2005/1909, art 2, Schedule.

Sub-s (4): words "the Office of Rail Regulation" in square brackets in each place they occur substituted by
the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003, s 16(5), Sch 2, Pt 2, para 19(u); for savings see s 16(5), Sch
3 thereto.

Date in force: 5 July 2004: see SI 2004/827, art 4(g).

Sub-s (4): para (hh) inserted by the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of
Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, SR 2005/537, reg 45, Sch 5, para 4(b).

Date in force: 3 January 2006: see the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and
Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, SR 2005/537, reg 1
(1).

Sub-s (4): para (i) repealed by the Railways Act 2005, s 59(1), (6), Sch 12, para 18(1), (2)(b), Sch 13, Pt 1.

Date in force: 24 July 2005: see SI 2005/1909, art 2, Schedule.

Sub-s (4): in para (k) words from "Secretary of State," to "Act of 1993" in square brackets substituted by
the Railways Act 2005, s 59(1), Sch 12, para 18(1), (2)(c).

Date in force (except in so far as it relates to the transfer of functions from the Strategic Rail
Authority to the Scottish Ministers): 24 July 2005: see SI 2005/1909, art 2, Schedule.
Date in force (for remaining purposes): 16 October 2005: see SI 2005/2812, art 2(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (4): para (n) repealed by the Postal Services Act 2011, s 91(1), (2), Sch 12, Pt 3, paras 163, 164(1),
(3)(a).

Date in force: to be appointed: see the Postal Services Act 2011, s 93(3).

Sub-s (4): para (p) inserted by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(1), Sch 12, para 46(4).

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (4): para (q) inserted by the Postal Services Act 2011, s 91(1), (2), Sch 12, Pt 3, paras 163, 164(1), (3)(b).

Date in force: to be appointed: see the Postal Services Act 2011, s 93(3).

Sub-s (5): para (b) substituted, for paras (b), (c) as originally enacted, by the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006/3336, art 308(1), Sch 12, para 46(5).

Date in force: 1 April 2007: see the Water and Sewerage Services (2006 Order) (Commencement No 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/194, art 2(2), Sch 1, Pt II; for transitional, transitory and saving provisions see art 3, Sch 2 thereto.

Sub-s (5): para (d) repealed by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(7), Sch 19(1).

Date in force (for the purpose only of enabling the networks and services functions and the spectrum functions to be carried out by the Director General of Telecommunications and the Secretary of State respectively, during the transitional period (as provided for by the Communications Act 2003, s 408(6)): 25 July 2003-29 December 2003: see SI 2003/1900, arts 2(1), 3(1), Sch 1 and the Communications Act 2003, ss 406(6), 408, Sch 18, para 2. Date in force (for remaining purposes): 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (5): para (e) substituted by the Water Act 2003, s 101(1), Sch 7, Pt 2, para 36(1), (3)(b).

Date in force: 1 April 2006: see SI 2005/2714, art 4(f).

Sub-s (5): para (g) substituted by the Communications Act 2003, s 406(1), Sch 17, para 174(1), (5)(c).

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

Sub-s (5): para (h) repealed by the Postal Services Act 2011, s 91(1), (2), Sch 12, Pt 3, paras 163, 164(1), (4).

Date in force: to be appointed: see the Postal Services Act 2011, s 93(3).

Sub-s (5): in para (i) words "the Office of Rail Regulation" in square brackets substituted by the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003, s 16(5), Sch 2, Pt 2, para 19(u); for savings see s 16(5), Sch 3 thereto.

Date in force: 5 July 2004: see SI 2004/827, art 4(g).

Sub-s (5): in para (i) word omitted repealed in relation to England, Scotland and Wales by the Railways Act 2005, s 59(6), Sch 13, Pt 1 and in relation to Northern Ireland by the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, SR 2005/537, reg 45, Sch 5, para 4(c)(i).

Date in force (in relation to England, Scotland and Wales): 16 October 2005: see SI 2005/2812, art 2(1), Sch 1.

Date in force (in relation to Northern Ireland): 3 January 2006: see the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, SR 2005/537, reg 1(1).

Sub-s (5): paras (j)-(l) substituted, for para (j) as originally enacted, by the Railways Act 2005, s 59(1), Sch 12, paras 18(1), (3); a corresponding amendment, substituting para (k) in relation to Northern Ireland, has been made by the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, SR 2005/537, reg 45, Sch 5, para 4(c)(ii).

Date in force (except in so far as it relates to the transfer of functions from the Strategic Rail Authority to the Scottish Ministers): 24 July 2005: see SI 2005/1909, art 2, Schedule.

Date in force (for remaining purposes): 16 October 2005: see SI 2005/2812, art 2(1), Sch 1.

See Further

See further, in relation to the application of this section, with modifications, for the purposes of the Railway (Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2005: the Railway (Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations 2005, SI 2005/3050, reg 14, Sch 3, Pt 1, para 1(f), Pt 2, para 8.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/169 Certain duties of relevant authorities to consult: Part 4

Consultation, information and publicity

169 Certain duties of relevant authorities to consult: Part 4

(1) Subsection (2) applies where the relevant authority is proposing to make a relevant decision in a way which the relevant authority considers is likely to have a substantial impact on the interests of any person.

(2) The relevant authority shall, so far as practicable, consult that person about what is proposed before making that decision.

(3) In consulting the person concerned, the relevant authority shall, so far as practicable, give the reasons of the relevant authority for the proposed decision.

(4) In considering what is practicable for the purposes of this section the relevant authority shall, in particular, have regard to--

- (a) any restrictions imposed by any timetable for making the decision; and
- (b) any need to keep what is proposed, or the reasons for it, confidential.

(5) The duty under this section shall not apply in relation to the making of any decision so far as particular provision is made elsewhere by virtue of this Part for consultation before the making of that decision.

(6) In this section--

"the relevant authority" means the OFT, the appropriate Minister or the Commission; and

"relevant decision" means--

- (a) in the case of the OFT, any decision by the OFT--
 - (i) as to whether to make a reference under section 131 or accept undertakings under section 154 instead of making such a reference; or

- (ii) to vary under section 135 such a reference;
- (b) in the case of the appropriate Minister, any decision by the appropriate Minister--
 - (i) as to whether to make a reference under section 132; or
 - (ii) to vary under section 135 such a reference; and
- (c) in the case of the Commission, any decision on the questions mentioned in section 134 or 141.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/170 General information duties

170 General information duties

- (1) The OFT shall give the Commission--
 - (a) such information in its possession as the Commission may reasonably require to enable the Commission to carry out its functions under this Part; and
 - (b) any other assistance which the Commission may reasonably require for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under this Part and which it is within the power of the OFT to give.
- (2) The OFT shall give the Commission any information in its possession which has not been requested by the Commission but which, in the opinion of the OFT, would be appropriate to give to the Commission for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its functions under this Part.
- (3) The OFT and the Commission shall give the Secretary of State or the appropriate Minister so far as he is not the Secretary of State acting alone--
 - (a) such information in their possession as the Secretary of State or (as the case may be) the appropriate Minister concerned may by direction reasonably require to enable him to carry out his functions under this Part; and
 - (b) any other assistance which the Secretary of State or (as the case may be) the appropriate Minister concerned may by direction reasonably require for the purpose of assisting him in carrying out his functions under this Part and which it is within the power of the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission to give.
- (4) The OFT shall give the Secretary of State or the appropriate Minister so far as he is not the Secretary of State acting alone any information in its possession which has not been requested by the Secretary of State or (as the case may be) the appropriate Minister concerned but which, in the opinion of the OFT, would be appropriate to give to the Secretary of State or (as the case may be) the appropriate Minister concerned for the purpose of assisting him in carrying out his functions under this Part.
- (5) The Commission shall have regard to any information given to it under subsection (1) or (2); and the Secretary of State or (as the case may be) the appropriate Minister concerned shall have regard to any

information given to him under subsection (3) or (4).

- (6) Any direction given under subsection (3)--
- (a) shall be in writing; and
 - (b) may be varied or revoked by a subsequent direction.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/171 Advice and information: Part 4

171 Advice and information: Part 4

- (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after the passing of this Act, the OFT shall prepare and publish general advice and information about the making of references by it under section 131.
- (2) The OFT may at any time publish revised, or new, advice or information.
- (3) As soon as reasonably practicable after the passing of this Act, the Commission shall prepare and publish general advice and information about the consideration by it of market investigation references and the way in which relevant customer benefits may affect the taking of enforcement action in relation to such references.
- (4) The Commission may at any time publish revised, or new, advice or information.
- (5) Advice and information published under this section shall be prepared with a view to--
 - (a) explaining relevant provisions of this Part to persons who are likely to be affected by them; and
 - (b) indicating how the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission expects such provisions to operate.
- (6) Advice and information published by virtue of subsection (1) or (3) shall include such advice and information about the effect of [EU] law, and anything done under or in accordance with it, on the provisions of this Part as the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission considers appropriate.
- (7) Advice (or information) published by virtue of subsection (1) or (3) may include advice (or information) about the factors which the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission may take into account in considering whether, and if so how, to exercise a function conferred by this Part.
- (8) Any advice or information published by the OFT or the Commission under this section shall be published in such manner as the OFT or (as the case may be) the Commission considers appropriate.
- (9) In preparing any advice or information under this section, the OFT shall consult the Commission and such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- (10) In preparing any advice or information under this section, the Commission shall consult the OFT and such other persons as it considers appropriate.

(11) In this section "[EU] law" means--

- (a) all the rights, powers, liabilities, obligations and restrictions from time to time created or arising by or under the [EU] Treaties; and
- (b) all the remedies and procedures from time to time provided for by or under the [EU] Treaties.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (6): reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

Sub-s (11): reference to "EU" in square brackets in the first place it occurs substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(2)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

Sub-s (11): in paras (a), (b) reference to "EU" in square brackets substituted by SI 2011/1043, art 6(1)(a).

Date in force: 22 April 2011: see SI 2011/1043, art 2; for transitional savings see art 3(3) thereof.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/172 Further publicity requirements: Part 4

172 Further publicity requirements: Part 4

(1) The OFT shall publish--

- (a) any reference made by it under section 131;
- (b) any variation made by it under section 135 of a reference under section 131;
- (c) any decision of a kind mentioned in section 149(5)(b); and
- (d) such information as it considers appropriate about any decision made by it under section 152(1) to bring a case to the attention of the Secretary of State.

(2) The Commission shall publish--

- (a) any decision made by it under section 138(2) neither to accept an undertaking under section 159 nor to make an order under section 161;

- (b) any decision made by it that there has been a material change of circumstances as mentioned in section 138(3) or there is another special reason as mentioned in that section;
 - (c) any termination under section 145(1) of an investigation by it;
 - (d) such information as it considers appropriate about any decision made by it under section 152(2) to bring a case to the attention of the Secretary of State;
 - (e) any enforcement undertaking accepted by it under section 157;
 - (f) any enforcement order made by it under section 158; and
 - (g) any variation, release or revocation of such an undertaking or order.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall publish--
- (a) any reference made by him under section 132;
 - (b) any variation made by him under section 135 of a reference under section 132;
 - (c) any intervention notice given by him;
 - (d) any decision made by him to revoke such a notice;
 - (e) any decision made by him under section 147(2) neither to accept an undertaking under section 159 nor to make an order under section 161;
 - (f) any enforcement undertaking accepted by him under section 157;
 - (g) any variation or release of such an undertaking; and
 - (h) any direction given by him under section 170(3) in connection with the exercise by him of his functions under section 132(3).
- (4) The appropriate Minister (other than the Secretary of State acting alone) shall publish--
- (a) any reference made by him under section 132;
 - (b) any variation made by him under section 135 of a reference under section 132; and
 - (c) any direction given by him under section 170(3) in connection with the exercise by him of his functions under section 132(3).
- (5) Where any person is under an obligation by virtue of subsection (1), (2), (3) or (4) to publish the result of any action taken by that person or any decision made by that person, the person concerned shall, subject to subsections (6) and (7), also publish that person's reasons for the action concerned or (as the case may be) the decision concerned.
- (6) Such reasons need not, if it is not reasonably practicable to do so, be published at the same time as the result of the action concerned or (as the case may be) as the decision concerned.
- (7) Subsections (5) and (6) shall not apply in relation to any case falling within subsection (1)(d) or (2)(d).
- (8) The Secretary of State shall publish his reasons for--
- (a) any decision made by him under section 146(2); or
 - (b) any decision to make an order under section 153(3) or vary or revoke such an order.
- (9) Such reasons may be published after--

- (a) in the case of subsection (8)(a), the publication of the decision concerned; and
- (b) in the case of subsection (8)(b), the making of the order or of the variation or revocation;

if it is not reasonably practicable to publish them at the same time as the publication of the decision or (as the case may be) the making of the order or variation or revocation.

(10) Where the Secretary of State has decided under section 147(2) to accept an undertaking under section 159 or to make an order under section 161, he shall (after the acceptance of the undertaking or (as the case may be) the making of the order) lay details of his decision and his reasons for it, and the Commission's report under section 142, before each House of Parliament.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/173 Defamation: Part 4

173 Defamation: Part 4

For the purposes of the law relating to defamation, absolute privilege attaches to any advice, guidance, notice or direction given, or decision or report made, by the OFT, by the Secretary of State, by the appropriate Minister (other than the Secretary of State acting alone) or by the Commission in the exercise of any of their functions under this Part.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/174 Investigation powers of OFT

Investigation powers

174 Investigation powers of OFT

(1) The OFT may exercise any of the powers in subsections (3) to (5) for the purpose of assisting it in deciding whether to make a reference under section 131 or to accept undertakings under section 154 instead of making such a reference.

- (2) The OFT shall not exercise any of the powers in subsections (3) to (5) for the purpose of assisting it as mentioned in subsection (1) unless it already believes that it has power to make such a reference.
- (3) The OFT may give notice to any person requiring him--
- (a) to attend at a time and place specified in the notice; and
 - (b) to give evidence to the OFT or a person nominated by the OFT for the purpose.
- (4) The OFT may give notice to any person requiring him--
- (a) to produce any documents which--
 - (i) are specified or described in the notice, or fall within a category of document which is specified or described in the notice; and
 - (ii) are in that person's custody or under his control; and
 - (b) to produce them at a time and place so specified and to a person so specified.
- (5) The OFT may give notice to any person who carries on any business requiring him--
- (a) to supply to the OFT such estimates, forecasts, returns or other information as may be specified or described in the notice; and
 - (b) to supply it at a time and place, and in a form and manner, so specified and to a person so specified.
- (6) A notice under this section shall include information about the possible consequences of not complying with the notice.
- (7) The person to whom any document is produced in accordance with a notice under this section may, for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1), copy the document so produced.
- (8) No person shall be required under this section--
- (a) to give any evidence or produce any documents which he could not be compelled to give or produce in civil proceedings before the court; or
 - (b) to supply any information which he could not be compelled to supply in evidence in such proceedings.
- (9) No person shall be required, in compliance with a notice under this section, to go more than 10 miles from his place of residence unless his necessary travelling expenses are paid or offered to him.
- (10) Any reference in this section to the production of a document includes a reference to the production of a legible and intelligible copy of information recorded otherwise than in legible form.
- (11) In this section "the court" means--
- (a) in relation to England and Wales or Northern Ireland, the High Court; and
 - (b) in relation to Scotland, the Court of Session.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/175 Enforcement of powers under section 174: offences

175 Enforcement of powers under section 174: offences

- (1) A person commits an offence if he, intentionally and without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with any requirement of a notice under section 174.
- (2) A person commits an offence if he intentionally and without reasonable excuse alters, suppresses or destroys any document which he has been required to produce by a notice under section 174.
- (3) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable--
 - (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.
- (4) A person commits an offence if he intentionally obstructs or delays--
 - (a) the OFT in the exercise of its powers under section 174; or
 - (b) any person in the exercise of his powers under subsection (7) of that section.
- (5) A person who commits an offence under subsection (4) shall be liable--
 - (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/176 Investigation powers of the Commission

176 Investigation powers of the Commission

- (1) The following sections in Part 3 shall apply, with the modifications mentioned in subsections (2) and (3) below, for the purposes of references under this Part as they apply for the purposes of references under that Part--
 - (a) section 109 (attendance of witnesses and production of documents etc);

- (b) section 110 (enforcement of powers under section 109: general);
 - (c) section 111 (penalties);
 - (d) section 112 (penalties: main procedural requirements);
 - (e) section 113 (payments and interest by instalments);
 - (f) section 114 (appeals in relation to penalties);
 - (g) section 115 (recovery of penalties); and
 - (h) section 116 (statement of policy).
- (2) Section 110 shall, in its application by virtue of subsection (1) above, have effect as if--
- (a) subsection (2) were omitted; and
 - (b) in subsection (9) the words from "or section" to "section 65(3))" were omitted.
- (3) Section 111(5)(b)(ii) shall, in its application by virtue of subsection (1) above, have effect as if--
- (a) for the words "section 50 or 65, given" there were substituted "section 142, published or given under section 143(1) or (3)"; and
 - (b) for the words "(or given)", in both places where they appear, there were substituted "(or published or given)".

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/177 Excisions from reports: Part 4

Reports

177 Excisions from reports: Part 4

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the Secretary of State is under a duty to publish a report of the Commission under section 142.
- (2) The Secretary of State may exclude a matter from the report if he considers that publication of the matter would be inappropriate.
- (3) In deciding what is inappropriate for the purposes of subsection (2) the Secretary of State shall have regard to the considerations mentioned in section 244.
- (4) The Commission shall advise the Secretary of State as to the matters (if any) which it considers should be excluded by him under subsection (2).

(5) References in sections 136(4) to (6), 143(2) and (5) to (7), 148(3) to (5) and 172(10) to the giving or laying of a report of the Commission shall be construed as references to the giving or laying of the report as published.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/178 Minority reports of Commission: Part 4

178 Minority reports of Commission: Part 4

(1) Subsection (2) applies where, on a market investigation reference, a member of a group constituted in connection with the reference in pursuance of paragraph 15 of Schedule 7 to the Competition Act 1998 (c 41), disagrees with any decisions contained in the report of the Commission under this Part as the decisions of the Commission.

(2) The report shall, if the member so wishes, include a statement of his disagreement and of his reasons for disagreeing.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/179 Review of decisions under Part 4

Other

179 Review of decisions under Part 4

(1) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the OFT, the appropriate Minister, the Secretary of State or the Commission in connection with a reference or possible reference under this Part may apply to the Competition Appeal Tribunal for a review of that decision.

(2) For this purpose "decision"--

(a) does not include a decision to impose a penalty under section 110(1) or (3) as applied by section 176; but

- (b) includes a failure to take a decision permitted or required by this Part in connection with a reference or possible reference.
- (3) Except in so far as a direction to the contrary is given by the Competition Appeal Tribunal, the effect of the decision is not suspended by reason of the making of the application.
- (4) In determining such an application the Competition Appeal Tribunal shall apply the same principles as would be applied by a court on an application for judicial review.
- (5) The Competition Appeal Tribunal may--
- (a) dismiss the application or quash the whole or part of the decision to which it relates; and
 - (b) where it quashes the whole or part of that decision, refer the matter back to the original decision maker with a direction to reconsider and make a new decision in accordance with the ruling of the Competition Appeal Tribunal.
- (6) An appeal lies on any point of law arising from a decision of the Competition Appeal Tribunal under this section to the appropriate court.
- (7) An appeal under subsection (6) requires the permission of the Tribunal or the appropriate court.
- (8) In this section--
- "the appropriate court" means the Court of Appeal or, in the case of Tribunal proceedings in Scotland, the Court of Session; and
- "Tribunal rules" has the meaning given by section 15(1).

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/180 Offences

180 Offences

- (1) Sections 117 (false or misleading information) and 125 (offences by bodies corporate) shall apply, with the modifications mentioned in subsection (2) below, for the purposes of this Part as they apply for the purposes of Part 3.
- (2) Section 117 shall, in its application by virtue of subsection (1) above, have effect as if references to the Secretary of State included references to the appropriate Minister so far as he is not the Secretary of State acting alone [and as if the references to OFCOM were omitted].

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

Amendment

Sub-s (2): words "and as if the references to OFCOM were omitted" in square brackets inserted by the Communications Act 2003, s 389(1), Sch 16, para 26.

Date in force: 29 December 2003: see SI 2003/3142, art 3(1), Sch 1.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/181 Orders under Part 4

181 Orders under Part 4

(1) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order under this Part shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.

(2) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order under this Part--

(a) may be exercised so as to make different provision for different cases or different purposes;

(b) includes power to make such incidental, supplementary, consequential, transitory, transitional or saving provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(3) The power of the Secretary of State under section 136(9), 137(3), 144(2), 153(3) or 168(8) as extended by subsection (2) above may be exercised by modifying any enactment comprised in or made under this Act, or any other enactment.

(4) An order made by the Secretary of State under section 137(3), 144(2), 158, 160 or 161, or under section 111(4) or (6) or 114(3)(b) or (4)(b) as applied by section 176, shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(5) No order shall be made by the Secretary of State under section 136(9) or 168(8), or section 128(6) as applied by section 183(2), unless a draft of it has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

(6) An order made by the Secretary of State under section 153(3) shall be laid before Parliament after being made and shall cease to have effect unless approved, within the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which it is made, by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

(7) In calculating the period of 28 days mentioned in subsection (6), no account shall be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.

(8) If an order made by the Secretary of State ceases to have effect by virtue of subsection (6), any modification made by it of an enactment is repealed (and the previous enactment revived) but without prejudice to the validity of anything done in connection with that modification before the order ceased to have effect and without prejudice to the making of a new order.

(9) If, apart from this subsection, an order made by the Secretary of State under section 153(3) would be treated for the purposes of the standing orders of either House of Parliament as a hybrid instrument, it shall proceed in that House as if it were not such an instrument.

(10) References in this section to an order made under this Part include references to an order made under section 111(4) or (6) or 114(3)(b) or (4)(b) as applied by section 176 and an order made under section 128(6) as applied by section 183(2).

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/182 Service of documents: Part 4

182 Service of documents: Part 4

Section 126 shall apply for the purposes of this Part as it applies for the purposes of Part 3.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/183 Interpretation: Part 4

183 Interpretation: Part 4

(1) In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires--

"action" includes omission; and references to the taking of action include references to refraining from action;

"business" includes a professional practice and includes any other undertaking which is carried on for gain or reward or which is an undertaking in the course of which goods or services are supplied otherwise than free of charge;

"change of circumstances" includes any discovery that information has been supplied which is false or misleading in a material respect;

"consumer" means any person who is--

(a) a person to whom goods are or are sought to be supplied (whether by way of sale or otherwise) in the course of a business carried on by the person supplying or seeking to supply them; or

(b) a person for whom services are or are sought to be supplied in the course of a business carried on by the person supplying or seeking to supply them;

and who does not receive or seek to receive the goods or services in the course of a business carried on by him;

"customer" includes a customer who is not a consumer;

"enactment" includes an Act of the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland legislation and an enactment comprised in subordinate legislation, and includes an enactment whenever passed or made;

"goods" includes buildings and other structures, and also includes ships, aircraft and hovercraft;

"Minister of the Crown" means the holder of an office in Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and includes the Treasury;

"modify" includes amend or repeal;

"notice" means notice in writing;

"subordinate legislation" has the same meaning as in the Interpretation Act 1978 (c 30) and also includes an instrument made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament and an instrument made under Northern Ireland legislation; and

"supply", in relation to the supply of goods, includes supply by way of sale, lease, hire or hire-purchase, and, in relation to buildings or other structures, includes the construction of them by a person for another person.

(2) Sections 127(1)(b) and (4) to (6) and 128 shall apply for the purposes of this Part as they apply for the purposes of Part 3.

(3) For the purposes of this Part a market investigation reference is finally determined if--

(a) where no intervention notice under section 139(1) has been given in relation to it--

(i) the period permitted by section 137 for preparing and publishing a report under section 136 has expired and no such report has been prepared and published;

(ii) such a report has been prepared and published within the period permitted by section 137 and contains the decision that there is no adverse effect on competition;

(iii) the Commission has decided under section 138(2) neither to accept undertakings under section 159 nor to make an order under section 161; or

(iv) the Commission has accepted an undertaking under section 159 or made an order under section 161;

(b) where an intervention notice under section 139(1) has been given in relation to it--

(i) the period permitted by section 144 for the preparation of the report of the Commission under section 142 and for action to be taken in relation to it under section 143(1) or (3) has expired while the intervention notice is still in force and no such report has been so prepared or no such action has been taken;

(ii) the Commission has terminated under section 145(1) its investigation and the reference is finally determined under paragraph (a) above (disregarding the fact that the notice was given);

(iii) the report of the Commission has been prepared under section 142 and published under section 143(1) within the period permitted by section 144;

(iv) the intervention notice was revoked and the reference is finally determined under paragraph (a) above (disregarding the fact that the notice was given);

(v) the Secretary of State has failed to make and publish a decision under subsection (2) of section 146 within the period permitted by subsection (3) of that section and the reference is finally determined under paragraph (a) above (disregarding the fact that the notice was given);

(vi) the Secretary of State has decided under section 146(2) that no eligible public interest

consideration is relevant and the reference is finally determined under paragraph (a) above (disregarding the fact that the notice was given);

(vii) the Secretary of State has decided under 146(2) that a public interest consideration is relevant but has decided under section 147(2) neither to accept an undertaking under section 159 nor to make an order under section 161; or

(viii) the Secretary of State has decided under section 146(2) that a public interest consideration is relevant and has accepted an undertaking under section 159 or made an order under section 161.

(4) For the purposes of this Part the time when a market investigation reference is finally determined is--

- (a) in a case falling within subsection (3)(a)(i) or (b)(i), the expiry of the time concerned;
- (b) in a case falling within subsection (3)(a)(ii) or (b)(iii), the publication of the report;
- (c) in a case falling within subsection (3)(a)(iv) or (b)(viii), the acceptance of the undertaking concerned or (as the case may be) the making of the order concerned; and
- (d) in any other case, the making of the decision or last decision concerned or the taking of the action concerned.

(5) The references in subsection (4) to subsections (3)(a)(i), (ii) and (iv) include those enactments as applied by subsection (3)(b)(ii), (iv), (v) or (vi).

(6) In subsection (4)(c) the reference to the acceptance of the undertaking concerned or the making of the order concerned shall, in a case where the enforcement action concerned involves the acceptance of a group of undertakings, the making of a group of orders or the acceptance and making of a group of undertakings and orders, be treated as a reference to the acceptance or making of the last undertaking or order in the group; but undertakings or orders which vary, supersede or revoke earlier undertakings or orders shall be disregarded for the purposes of subsections (3)(a)(iv) and (b)(viii) and (4)(c).

(7) Any duty to publish which is imposed on a person by this Part shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as a duty on that person to publish in such manner as that person considers appropriate for the purpose of bringing the matter concerned to the attention of those likely to be affected by it.

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.

UK Parliament Acts/E/EH-EN/Enterprise Act 2002 (2002 c 40)/Part 4 Market Investigations (ss 131-184)/184 Index of defined expressions: Part 4

184 Index of defined expressions: Part 4

In this Part, the expressions listed in the left-hand column have the meaning given by, or are to be interpreted in accordance with, the provisions listed in the right-hand column.

| <i>Expression</i> | <i>Provision of this Act</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Action (and the taking of action) | Section 183(1) |

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Adverse effect on competition | Section 134(2) |
| Appropriate Minister | Section 132(5) |
| Business | Section 183(1) |
| Change of circumstances | Section 183(1) |
| The Commission | Section 273 |
| Consumer | Section 183(1) |
| Customer | Section 183(1) |
| Date of market investigation reference | Section 137(7) |
| Detrimental effect on customers | Section 134(5) |
| Enactment | Section 183(1) |
| Enforcement order | Section 162(8) |
| Enforcement undertaking | Section 162(8) |
| Feature of a market | Section 131(2) |
| Final determination of market investigation reference | Section 183(3) to (6) |
| Goods | Section 183(1) |
| Intervention notice | Section 139(3) |
| Market for goods or services | Section 131(6) |
| Market in the United Kingdom | Section 131(6) |
| Market investigation reference | Section 131(6) |
| Minister of the Crown | Section 183(1) |
| Modify | Section 183(1) |
| Notice | Section 183(1) |
| The OFT | Section 273 |
| Public interest consideration | Section 139(5) |
| Public interest consideration being finalised | Section 139(7) |
| Publish | Section 183(7) |
| Relevant customer benefit | Section 134(8) |
| Relevant sectoral enactment | Section 136(7) |
| Relevant sectoral regulator | Section 136(8) |
| Reports of the Commission | Section 177(5) |
| Subordinate legislation | Section 183(1) |
| Supply (in relation to the supply of goods) | Section 183(1) |
| The supply of services (and a market for services etc) | Section 183(2) |

NOTES

Initial Commencement

To be appointed

To be appointed: see s 279.

Appointment

Appointment: 20 June 2003: see SI 2003/1397, art 2(1), Schedule.