

# REFERENCE RELATING TO THE COMPLETED ACQUISITION BY CINEWORLD GROUP PLC OF CITY SCREEN LIMITED

## Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 10.3 of the Competition Commission Rules of Procedure

1. On 30 April 2013, the Office of Fair Trading, in exercise of its duty under section 22 of the Enterprise Act 2002, referred the completed acquisition by Cineworld Group plc of City Screen Limited to the Competition Commission (CC) for investigation and report within a period ending 14 October 2013.

## **Provisional findings**

- 2. The CC Inquiry Group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 35(1) of the Act:
  - (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 (SLC) in the market for cinema exhibition services in the Aberdeen, Bury St Edmunds and Cambridge areas.

The Group's provisional findings and its reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which is published on the CC website (see note (i) below).

#### The next steps

- 3. Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is now invited to provide the Group with their reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
- 4. All comments and reasons should be received by Dan Cliffe, the Inquiry Manager, on behalf of the Group, no later than 5pm on Tuesday, 10 September 2013.
- 5. The Group will consider any such comments and reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.
- 6. The Group has also published a notice of possible actions which it considers might be taken by the CC to remedy the SLC provisionally identified.

(signed) ALASDAIR SMITH Group Chairman 20 August 2013

#### Notes

(i) A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC website on 20 August 2013. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its website by 21 August 2013. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act. These excisions are indicated by [%].

### (ii) Comments should be made by email to:

#### dan.cliffe@cc.gsi.gov.uk

or in writing, to

Dan Cliffe Inquiry Manager Cineworld/City Screen merger inquiry Competition Commission Victoria House Southampton Row LONDON WC1B 4AD