

## **Anticipated merger between Ladbrokes plc and certain businesses of Gala Coral Group Limited**

### **Terms of reference**

1. In exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**) the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) 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, in that:
    - (i) enterprises carried on by Ladbrokes plc will cease to be distinct from enterprises carried on by Gala Coral Group Limited; and
    - (ii) the condition specified in section 23(1)(b) of the Act is satisfied; and
  - (b) the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within a market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services, including in the supply of fixed odds betting products in licensed betting offices (**LBOs**) within local areas around certain LBOs operated by Ladbrokes plc and Gala Coral Group Limited.
2. Therefore, in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Act, the CMA hereby makes a reference to its chair for the constitution of a group under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 in order that the group may investigate and report, within a period ending on 24 June 2016, on the following questions in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act:
  - (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.

**Andrea Coscelli**  
**Executive Director of Markets and Mergers**  
**Competition and Markets Authority**  
**11 January 2016**