

REFERENCE RELATING TO THE COMPLETED ACQUISITION BY ARAMARK LIMITED OF ENTIER LIMITED

Notice of extension under section 41A(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002¹ of the period for the discharge of the duty under section 41(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002

1. On 5 August 2025, in exercise of its duty under [section 22\(1\)](#) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the **Act**), the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) made a reference to its Chair for the constitution of a Group of CMA Panel Members (the **Inquiry Group**) to investigate and report on the completed acquisition (the **Merger**) by Aramark Limited of Entier Limited.
2. On 15 January 2026, the CMA published a final report pursuant to [section 38](#) of the Act (the **Final Report**). In the Final Report, the CMA concluded (among other matters) that the Merger had resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition (**SLC**) in the Offshore Infrastructure Market (as defined in the Final Report) in the United Kingdom and that the CMA should take remedial action.
3. As set out in the Final Report, the CMA decided that a divestiture remedy (the Entier UK Divestment) as specified in the Final Report would be effective and proportionate to remedy the SLC and its adverse effects.
4. On 13 February 2026, Aramark Limited filed at the Competition Appeal Tribunal (the **Tribunal**) a notice of application for review of the Final Report pursuant to [section 120](#) of the Act. The notice was filed out of time.
5. On 15 February 2026, Aramark Limited made a retrospective application to the Tribunal for an extension of time to file its notice of application pursuant to Rule 25(3) of the Tribunal's Rules.² On 10 March 2026, the Tribunal handed down its judgment, rejecting the application.
6. The statutory period for the CMA to accept final undertakings or make a final order to discharge its statutory duty to take remedial action set out in [section 41\(2\)](#) of the Act expires on 8 April 2026 (the **Original Period**). Before it can accept final undertakings or make a final order, the CMA is required to consult for a minimum of 15 calendar days for final undertakings and a minimum of 30 calendar days for a final order ([section 90](#) of, and [Schedule 10](#), paragraph 2(2) to, the Act).

¹ Published pursuant to [section 107\(2\)\(ea\)](#) of the Enterprise Act 2002.

² [The Competition Appeal Tribunal Rules 2015](#).

7. The Inquiry Group now considers that it will not be possible to discharge its statutory duty under [section 41\(2\)](#) of the Act within the Original Period. Therefore, the Inquiry Group has decided to extend the Original Period by six weeks under [section 41A\(2\)](#) of the Act to 20 May 2026 as it considers that there are special reasons to do so (set out below). However, the Inquiry Group aims to discharge its duty as soon as possible in advance of that date.
8. In taking this decision, the Inquiry Group has had regard to the following:
 - (a) Despite extensive engagement, it has not been possible to agree the terms of final undertakings for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the SLC identified in the Final Report and its resulting adverse effects.
 - (b) The disagreement emerged more than seven weeks into the Original Period, following the Tribunal's rejection (in its judgment of 10 March 2026) of Aramark Limited's application for an extension of time to file a notice of application pursuant to [section 120](#) of the Act.
 - (c) In the circumstances, it will be necessary to consult on a draft final order. However, there is no longer sufficient time within the Original Period in which to consult on, and subsequently make, a final order.
9. The Inquiry Group has had regard to all of the above in the round, appreciating also the need to be as comprehensive, thorough and fair as possible within the tight statutory timeframe.

Richard Feasey
Inquiry Group Chair
17 March 2026