

## **FUTURE PLC/HIGHBURY HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS PLC MERGER INQUIRY**

### **Cancellation of merger reference**

The Competition Commission (CC) cancelled the reference concerning the proposed acquisition by Future PLC (Future) of Highbury House Communications PLC (Highbury House) on 27 April 2005.

The reference was made to the CC on 14 April 2005 by the Office of Fair Trading under section 33 of the Enterprise Act 2002. The terms of reference required the CC to examine:

- (a) whether arrangements were in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, would 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 and services.

The CC has received assurances from Future that the proposed acquisition by Future of Highbury House has been abandoned. The Chairman of the CC, Professor Paul Geroski, having had regard to those assurances, is satisfied that Future has, within the terms of section 37(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002, abandoned the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in the reference. The Chairman has consequently cancelled the reference in accordance with his powers under Schedule 7 to the Competition Act 1998.

This cancellation is published in accordance with requirements laid down by sections 107(2) (a) and 107(4) of the Enterprise Act 2002.