

**REFERENCE RELATING TO THE COMPLETED ACQUISITION  
BY VUE ENTERTAINMENT HOLDINGS (UK) LIMITED OF A3 CINEMA LIMITED**

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

1. On 23 September 2005, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), in exercise of its duty under section 22(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) and its power under section 35(6) of the Act, referred to the Competition Commission (CC) a completed merger for investigation and report within a period ending on 09 March 2006:

**Provisional findings**

2. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the 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 may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within the market for cinema exhibition services in Basingstoke.
3. The Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which is attached to this notice, and are summarized in the executive summary of the provisional findings report (see note below).

**The next steps**

4. Vue Entertainment Holdings (UK) Limited is now invited to provide the Group with its reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
5. These reasons should be received by the Group no later than 16 January 2006.
6. The Group will have regard to any such reasons provided in making their final decisions on the statutory questions.
7. The Group will shortly send to Vue Entertainment Holdings (UK) Limited and publish a notice of the actions which it considers might be taken by the CC to remedy the adverse effects provisionally identified.

Dame Barbara Mills  
*Group Chairman*  
20 December 2005

*Note:* A copy of this notice and the executive summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC web site on 20 December 2005. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its web site by 20 December 2005. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Group consider

should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.