

THE COMPLETED JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN STAGECOACH BUS HOLDINGS LIMITED AND BRADDELL PLC IN RELATION TO THE MEGABUS.COM, MOTORVATOR AND SCOTTISH CITYLINK BRANDS

Notice of extension of inquiry period published pursuant to section 107(2)(c) Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act)

On 15 March 2006, the Office of Fair Trading, in exercise of its duty under section 22 of the Act, referred to the Competition Commission the completed joint venture between Stagecoach Bus Holdings Limited and Braddell PLC (the parties) in relation to the Scottish bus and coach businesses operating under the megabus.com, Motorvator and Scottish Citylink brands. The period within which the report on this reference was to be prepared and published (the reference period) was due to expire on 29 August 2006.

On 6 July 2006 the members of the Competition Commission appointed to consider this reference (the Group), in consultation with the Chairman of the Competition Commission, decided to invite comments from the parties on whether the reference period should be extended under section 39(3) of the Act.

Having taken account of comments received from the parties, on 13 July the Group decided that the reference period should be extended by eight weeks to 24 October 2006. The Competition Commission considers that delays in the submission of evidence, delays in the holding of the second main party hearing, and the emergence of new or substantially revised arguments at and after the second main party hearing mean that an extension is necessary. The Group considers that completion of its investigation and the publication of its final report, including any necessary remedy process, would not have been possible within the original reference period.