

**REFERENCE RELATING TO THE COMPLETED ACQUISITION
OF THE MEMBERS' AGENCY BUSINESS OF CBS PRIVATE CAPITAL LIMITED
BY HAMPDEN AGENCIES LIMITED**

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

1. On 14 July 2006, the Office of Fair Trading, 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) the completed acquisition of the members' agency business of CBS Private Capital Limited by Hampden Agencies Limited.¹

Provisional findings

2. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory 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 has not resulted and may not be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within the market for the supply of members' agency services to active individual Lloyd's members within the UK or elsewhere.
3. The Group's provisional findings on these questions, and its reasons, are set out in the provisional findings report, a summary of which is attached to this notice. The provisional findings report will be published in full on the CC website (see note (i) below).

The next steps

4. Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is invited to provide the Group with their 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 November 2006.
6. The Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.

Robert Turgoose
Group Chairman
27 October 2006

¹The name of the target in the OFT terms of reference was stated as 'Christie Brockbank Shipton Private Capital Limited' although the OFT was informed by Hampden Agencies Limited after publication of the terms of reference that CBS Private Capital Limited is the target's official name, as registered with Companies House at the date of completion of this acquisition.

Notes:

- (i) A copy of this notice and the executive summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC website on 27 October 2006. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its website by 3 November 2006. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.
- (ii) Comments should be made in writing to:

Anne Jolly
Inquiry Secretary (Hampden/CBS)
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD

or by email to: anne.jolly@cc.gsi.gov.uk.