



News Release

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CC CLEARS GAME/GAMES STATION MERGER

The Competition Commission (CC) has formally cleared the completed acquisition by Game Group plc (GAME) of Games Station Limited (Gamestation).

In its final report published today at www.competition-commission.org.uk, the CC has concluded that the merger of Game and Game Station may not be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in the markets for the supply of gaming software, consoles and related accessories in the UK.

This confirms the CC's provisional findings, which were published last month. See news release dated 5 December 2007:

www.competition-commission.org.uk/press_rel/2007/dec/pdf/66-07.pdf

Two members of the Group disagreed with the conclusion in relation to the trade-in and sale of pre-owned gaming software. As this meant a split 2:2 verdict, the Chairman has exercised her casting vote in favour of a final clearance. At least two-thirds of an inquiry group must decide there is an anti-competitive outcome from a merger for the CC to reach a finding of a substantial lessening of competition and consider remedies.

The merger was referred by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 9 August 2007.

Notes for editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The members of the merger inquiry group are: Dr Diane Coyle (Group Chairman), Alexander Johnston, Ian Jones and Richard Taylor.
3. The Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the OFT to refer to the CC completed or proposed mergers for investigation and report which create or enhance a 25 per cent share of supply in the UK (or a substantial part thereof) or where the UK turnover associated with the enterprise being acquired is over £70 million.
4. The Competition Act (Schedule 7, paragraph 20(2)) stipulates that a decision of a CC Group that there is an anti-competitive outcome is to be treated as a decision that

there is no anti-competitive outcome if the decision is not that of at least two-thirds of the members of the Group.

5. The CC has a 24-week period in which it is required to publish its report, which may be extended by no more than eight weeks if it considers that there are special reasons why the report cannot be published within that period. It is required to report by 23 January 2008.
6. Enquiries should be directed to Siobhan Allen on 020 7271 0242 (email siobhan.allen@cc.gsi.gov.uk).