

49/02

12 November 2002

COMPETITION COMMISSION INVITES EVIDENCE ON THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY SECURICOR PLC OF THE CASH HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTION BUSINESS OF ROYAL MAIL GROUP PLC (FORMALLY CONSIGNIA PLC)

Competition Minister Melanie Johnson, has asked the Competition Commission to look into the proposed acquisition by Securicor plc of the cash handling and distribution business of Royal Mail Group plc (formerly Consignia plc).

The Commission has been asked to consider whether the proposed acquisition may be expected to operate against the public interest, and to report to the Secretary of State by 21 February 2003. The report will be published at a later date.

The Commission would like to hear from all interested parties, in writing, by 29 November 2002. To submit evidence, please write to:

The Inquiry Secretary (Securicor/Royal Mail Group)
Room 563
Competition Commission
New Court
48 Carey Street
LONDON WC2A 2JT

or e-mail: timothy.oyler@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk or secrmg@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk

A group of Commission members is being formed to investigate this merger. Their details will be posted on the Commission's website (www.competition-commission.org.uk) shortly.

Notes to Editors

1. The reference concerning the proposed acquisition by Securicor was made under the Fair Trading Act 1973 on 8 November 2002 (see DTI Press Notice P/2002/693).

2. Further information can be obtained from the Commission's website at www.competition-commission.org.uk
3. Enquiries should be directed to: Francis Royle, Press Officer, Tel: 020 7271 0242