

ARCHANT LIMITED AND INDEPENDENT NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED

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

On 29 April 2004, the Office of Fair Trading, in the exercise of its duty under section 22(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred to the Competition Commission (CC) the acquisition by Archant Limited of the London Regionals division of Independent News and Media Limited.

Provisional findings

The CC has now made provisional findings on the questions to be decided pursuant to section 35(1) of the Act, being:

- (a) whether a relevant merger situation has been created; and
- (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation has resulted, or may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK for goods or services.

The CC's provisional findings on these questions, and its reasons, are attached to this notice. A copy of the provisional findings has been published on the CC's web site (see note (i)).

Next steps

Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is invited to provide the CC with their response in writing (see note (ii)) including any reason as to why these provisional findings should not become final.

Written reasons must be received by the CC no later than **3 September 2004**.

The CC will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decision.

Signed

Peter Freeman
Deputy Chairman
28 July 2004

Notes:

- (i) A copy of this notice and the provisional findings will be placed on the CC's web site on **29 July 2004**. The published version of the provisional findings will not contain any

information that the CC considers should not be published having regard to the considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.

(ii) Comments should be made in writing to:

Sally Van Noorden, Inquiry Secretary, Archant/INM
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD

or by email to: sally.vannoorden@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk