



# News Release

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18 September 2007

## **GAME GROUP PLC AND GAMES STATION LIMITED MERGER**

### **Statement of issues**

The Competition Commission (CC) has published an issues statement as part of its inquiry into the completed acquisition by Game Group plc of Games Station Limited.

The CC has been asked to decide whether the merger may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets for goods or services in the supply of video gaming software, hardware (such as consoles and peripherals) and related products in the UK.

The issues statement follows the initial process of gathering information, views and evidence and identifies clearly for all interested parties the specific questions and areas the inquiry is examining. This will form the basis for hearings with, Game Group plc, Game Station Limited and other interested parties.

The full issues statement is available on the CC website at [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk) and examines areas such as:

- (a) market definition;
- (b) the counterfactual, ie what would have happened in the absence of the merger; and
- (c) the competitive effects of the merger.

If the inquiry group (the Group) considers that the merger may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition, it will consider whether and, if so, what remedies might be appropriate, taking into account any customer benefits that might arise from the acquisition, and will issue any remedies statement, should this be required, at about the time it publishes its provisional findings.

The issues statement should not be seen as implying that the Group has identified any competition concerns—the CC has yet to reach any conclusions on this inquiry. The purpose of making the statement of issues public is to inform all interested parties and give them an opportunity to raise any further points with the CC.

Anyone wishing to comment further on any of the issues raised is requested to do so by 28 September 2007 by email to [game.gamestation@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:game.gamestation@cc.gsi.gov.uk) or in writing to:

Inquiry Secretary (Game/Gamestation)  
Competition Commission  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
LONDON  
WC1B 4AD

The CC will now continue to gather evidence in this inquiry and will publish its provisional findings according to the administrative timetable available on the CC website.

### **Notes for editors**

1. 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.
2. The Group consists of four members: Dr Diane Coyle (Group Chairman), Alexander Johnston, Ian Jones and Richard Taylor.
3. 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.
4. Further information on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from its website at: [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).
5. Enquiries should be directed to Siobhan Allen on 020 7271 0242 (email [siobhan.allen@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:siobhan.allen@cc.gsi.gov.uk)).