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NOTICE - 5th April 2010

CCM Investigation 002

As a public body, the CCM believes its investigations should be public knowledge, and also believes that transparency assists its investigations, by for example enabling interested parties to get in touch with us. It therefore announces investigations when they begin. The one exception to this rule is when the CCM is expecting to raid premises to obtain information, as investigations must obviously remain confidential before such raids. The CCM reserves the right to keep investigations confidential, when it needs to do so for them to be effective.

On 17th December 2009, I launched an investigation (INV002) on the basis of information received about communication between two companies to fix prices. Because it seemed likely that premises would need to be raided, the investigation remained confidential. The CCM has been observing developments in the marketplace since that date.

Several companies have contacted the CCM to ask whether this investigation concerns them. It is not the CCM's intention that companies not under investigation should be concerned that they might be. I believe that the continuing secrecy regarding this case is therefore not consistent with the CCM's principles.

I have today reviewed the case and concluded that the likelihood of finding evidence relating to a breach of the Act is low. I have therefore decided to close the case without further action. We will continue to observe the markets in question, as part of our normal monitoring of the economy, and could launch an investigation if circumstances change.

John Davies

Executive Director