



Case Closing Statement

Case Reference: C1637G

On 31 January 2023, the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (**GCRA**) decided pursuant to section 22(1) of the Competition (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2012 (**2012 Ordinance**) that there were reasonable grounds to suspect that certain undertakings active in the provision of optometric services had contravened section 5(1) of the 2012 Ordinance by entering into an arrangement or arrangements which had the object or effect of preventing competition within a relevant market in Guernsey for the provision of those services. It therefore decided to conduct an investigation into the suspected contravention.

Following the opening of the investigation, the GCRA used its formal information gathering powers to seek information from the relevant undertakings. As a result of the information provided and its analysis of available correspondence and discussions with relevant parties, the GCRA has concluded that the evidence at hand does not clearly support the original grounds to suspect that the law had been broken. Accordingly, having considered the evidence at hand, applying our [Prioritisation Principles](#), and taking into account the possibility of taking alternative action (such as the issuing of specific guidance) to support compliance, the GCRA has decided to close its investigation.

The GCRA was encouraged to observe that certain undertakings subject to the investigation clearly had, and were acting in accordance with, effective internal competition law compliance programmes. This led both to compliance with the rules on a day-to-day basis and also to constructive engagement with the Authority in the initial phases of the investigation. However, the GCRA has also found that several undertakings had engaged in collective action that, while outside the scope of the initial investigation, gave rise to additional potential competition law concerns. As a consequence, the GCRA intends to monitor compliance in optometric services in Guernsey closely and to provide the relevant parties with guidance on best practices in order to ensure compliance with the 2012 Ordinance. We may decide to look again at the sector if further concerns arise.

ENDS