



CICRA media release

13 November 2015

CICRA seeks improvement to Channel Island merger regimes

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (CICRA) is revisiting its merger regime in Guernsey and Jersey and has issued consultations in both islands.

Since the introduction of competition law in the islands businesses in Jersey and Guernsey engaging in mergers or acquisitions are in specific cases required to notify CICRA prior to concluding the transaction. CICRA has the power to approve the transaction, impose the transaction while imposing condition or it can block the transaction outright.

Chief executive Michael Byrne said CICRA had listened to the views of businesses and it was considering aligning the Jersey and Guernsey regimes more closely.

“There are improvements that can be made. CICRA has a duty to protect consumers, including businesses who are themselves consumers, when mergers or acquisitions represent a threat to competition. We believe that there are some changes needed to the framework that will make a real difference to the efficiency of the merger regime and make the process more straightforward for those involved.

“Our initial discussions with local businesses, and the Guernsey and Jersey Bars, have been very helpful and we’re grateful for their engagement. We now want to hear from other interested parties and welcome comment from industry groups, businesses, both small and large consumer groups and the public.

“The consultation will close mid January 2016, and depending on the feedback received, CICRA will look at altering its own guidelines and processes; amendments to the various laws may also be required”.

“We will then approach the relevant government departments with any case for change.”

The consultation can be viewed online at

http://www.cicra.gg/media_centre/publications_sector.aspx?sector=1

or a copy can be obtained from the CICRA offices in Guernsey and Jersey.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA chief executive, Michael Byrne, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suite 4, 1st Floor, Plaiderie Chambers, La Plaiderie, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1WG or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@cicra.gg.

In line with CICRA's consultation policy, it intends to make responses to the consultation available on the CICRA website. Any material that is confidential should be put in a separate annex and clearly marked as such so that it may be kept confidential. CICRA regrets that it is not in a position to respond individually to the responses to this consultation.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.