

JCRA Media Release

20 November 2008

JCRA Consults on its 2009 Workplan

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority ('JCRA') has today issued for consultation its draft Aims and Objectives for 2009. The purpose of the consultation is to give consumers, businesses and other interested parties a direct say in what the JCRA should be aiming to achieve in 2009.

The JCRA is an independent authority established by the States of Jersey to enforce Jersey's competition law and regulate its telecommunication and postal sectors. In each of these areas, the JCRA's primary mission is to promote consumer welfare through efforts that encourage lower prices and greater choice and innovation in the goods and services available in Jersey. The JCRA's proposed Aims and Objectives for 2009 further these goals:

- In Telecommunications, the JCRA intends to facilitate new entry and competition on a level playing field with the incumbent operator, Jersey Telecom;
- The JCRA also aims to facilitate new entry and competition, where appropriate, in Jersey's Postal sector;
- Finally, the JCRA will continue its role as the enforcement authority of Jersey's Competition Law, which aims to prevent cartels, abuses of dominance, and anticompetitive mergers and acquisitions, all of which may harm Jersey's economy.

Chuck Webb, the JCRA's Executive Director, said:

"The JCRA's core mission is to use the three tools at our disposal – telecoms regulation, postal regulation, and competition law enforcement – to promote consumer welfare in Jersey, for the benefit of the people of the Bailiwick. We believe our proposed 2009 Aims & Objectives are consistent with and further this mission."

In addition to its enforcement activities, in 2009 the JCRA intends to continue its role, both in Jersey and abroad, as a competition policy advocate and recognised thought

leader in the application of competition law principles in small economies. Mr Webb states:

“We will continue to provide advice to the States, businesses, and consumers, on the laws we enforce, when called upon to do so. We also intend to continue our mission to promote the application of competition law in small economies, and make sure that the law develops in a manner that takes into account the needs of economies both large and small.”

Mr Webb concludes:

“We aim to be as transparent as possible in our approach, and this consultation gives consumers, businesses and other interested parties an opportunity to comment on whether our proposed approach is appropriate. We look forward to receiving as much input as possible.”

A copy of the draft 2009 Aims and Objectives for consultation is available on the JCRA’s website, www.jcra.je. Any responses should be submitted to the JCRA by 5 pm on Friday 19 December 2008.

All enquiries concerning this matter should be addressed to Chuck Webb, Executive Director, on +44 (0)1534 514990.

ENDS