

## JCRA Media Release

29 November 2010

### **JCRA publishes guidance to ensure consumers are paying the best possible price for school uniforms.**

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (“JCRA”) has today published guidance for schools in Jersey which may help to ensure that parents/carers can purchase school uniforms at the best possible price. The publication follows a review of how school uniforms are sold locally and was initiated following a complaint earlier this year that suggested certain exclusive agreements between schools and suppliers might be resulting in higher costs.

“Parents/carers of students in Jersey are required to purchase school uniforms and with about 13,000 children attending school locally, ensuring this can be done at the best possible price is therefore very important,” said John Curran, Executive Director of the JCRA. “It is important that this market works well for parents/carers of school children as the cost of uniforms can be high.”

“We would hope that schools make certain they are taking all possible steps to ensure they are getting the best deals to help lower the cost of school uniforms and this guidance should assist them in looking at how this might be achieved.”

The JCRA has worked closely with the Department for Education, Sport and Culture and with the individual schools, both public and fee-paying, which have co-operated fully with this review. The JCRA has written to the Department and schools with guidance on steps it may wish to consider to ensure it gets best value for parents/carers.

“We are very grateful to the Education Department and the individual schools for their assistance with this review. We are confident that they will do all that they can to implement the guidance during this school year”, said John Curran. The full guidance is available at [www.jcra.je](http://www.jcra.je).

Exclusive supply arrangements may infringe the Jersey Competition Law because they cause a supplier to sell its products only to one buyer within Jersey for the purposes of that buyer's own use or resale. This in turn can have an appreciable effect on competition and increase prices for consumers. If businesses have any concerns that their supply agreements may be infringing the Law, they are advised to contact the JCRA for advice.

All enquiries concerning this media release should be directed to the Executive Director, John Curran, on +44 (0)1534 514990.