



**12 September, 2017**

**Channel Island businesses and consumer groups invited to attend  
competition law seminar**

Business and consumer groups are invited to attend the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (CICRA) Competition Law and Regulation Seminar on 18 September in Guernsey and 19 September in Jersey to learn more about how the competition law can, and does, impact on local businesses and the business environment they work within.

The seminar will be held at 1.30pm at the Old Government House Hotel in Guernsey on Monday 18 September and The Grand Hotel in Jersey on 19 September with guest speaker, Peter Freeman CBE, QC, the chairman of the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal.

CICRA chief executive, Michael Byrne, said the competition law is essentially there to protect the interests of consumers and ensure that businesses can compete in a market economy where fair competition is protected.

The principles the law safeguards influence the environment in which every local business operates and, while relatively new in Jersey and Guernsey, it is an established part of virtually every free market economy.

“We engage with markets throughout our lives from the medical services we rely on, the groceries we buy, the fuels we run our cars on, to the travel choices we make. The outcomes of those markets, and whether they are allowed to work well, influences the cost and choice of services and products we enjoy.

“Where those markets do not work as well as they should because the self-interests of businesses contravene principles of fair competition, the competition law across the Channel Islands plays a safeguarding role for both fair trading businesses and consumers.

“Our aim with these seminars is to hear from those with experience in this field, including Mr Freeman and CICRA’s non-executive directors, and learn from their perspectives and past experiences.

“We will look to discuss practical issues that involve businesses and consumers and some of the challenges that arise in applying the law.”

Mr Freeman, the guest speaker, is a founding member and chairman of the Regulatory Policy Institute, Oxford, and is an author and speaker on many competition and regulatory law matters. Currently a practising lawyer, he has held senior posts in UK competition enforcement.

Drawing on his UK experiences, he will discuss the importance and limitations of competition law in creating a productive and efficient economy. He will look at the main areas of competition law including cartels, anticompetitive agreements, market power and mergers. He will also consider the limits of competition policy – what it does well and what it should not attempt to do at all - while drawing some lessons for the Channel Islands.

“Peter is a highly respected international figure in the field of competition law. He is an accomplished anti-trust and competition lawyer, who distinguished himself in the practice of his trade in Brussels and London before becoming the Chairman of the Competition Commission and then the Competition Appeal Tribunal. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in his field and we look forward to his sharing some of his considerable insights with us. ” Mr Byrne said.

CICRA chairman Michael O’Higgins will introduce the seminars and moderate a panel discussion with the CICRA non-executives where there will be an opportunity for questions about the practical application of the competition law and economic regulation. The seminar will finish at 3.30pm.

Please contact Jill Perkins at CICRA, [Jill.Perkins@cicra.gg](mailto:Jill.Perkins@cicra.gg), to register to attend.

## **ENDS**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA chief executive, Michael Byrne, in Guernsey at Suite 4, 1st Floor, La 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](mailto: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.