



14 February, 2018

CICRA seeks evidence from Sandpiper over First Tower sale

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (CICRA) has asked Sandpiper for evidence that it has made every effort to sell the Checkers store at First Tower as a general store.

CICRA director, Louise Read, said that Sandpiper acquired a number of general stores six months ago with approval from CICRA. At that time an obligation was placed on Sandpiper relating to one specific store where its location, First Tower, reduced the level of competition in that area.

CICRA required that Sandpiper either sell the freehold of the First Tower premises or lease it to another business, enabling it to remain a general store. This would provide proper competition, a key part of fair retail provision, to local residents.

Within this obligation, provision was made that if no offer was forthcoming after six months of it being on the market, the store would be closed and could be marketed for sale by Sandpiper for another purpose.

This six month deadline expired on Wednesday 13 December.

Mrs Read said: "We are currently investigating whether Sandpiper has complied with the conditions of the merger. We issued a decision instructing that the store at First Tower should not be closed while our investigation takes place.

"We appreciate that consumers may be impacted by the closure of this shop. What is best for consumers is forefront to our consideration."

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.

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.