



Information Note – Merger Pre-notification

Date: December 2025

Guernsey Competition & Regulatory Authority
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1. Since 2017, the GCRA has offered pre-notification discussions to parties and their legal advisers who intend to apply to the GCRA for merger approval. This pre-notification process was introduced because experience in other jurisdictions shows that it offers significant benefits to merging parties and is one of the ways the GCRA can be supportive of businesses. Pre-notification has enabled the GCRA, in conjunction with the merging parties, to identify areas where we do not require extensive information from them, thus reducing the administrative burden on businesses. It has also enabled us to clarify the information that parties need to provide for the merger application form to be complete, which reduces the risk of delays during Phase 1 due to needing to seek further information or clarifications from the parties. The average clearance time for Phase 1 mergers in 2025 was less than fourteen days, which is in no small part down to the pre-notification facility.
2. Pre-notification discussions are funded through the GCRA's general competition law grant, which is provided by the Committee *for* Economic Development. The level at which the competition grant for 2026 has been set – which is due to pressures on public expenditure – will require the GCRA to scale back its competition law work significantly in 2026. As such, it will no longer be an option to draw on the competition grant to fund pre-notification discussions and, having considered the options available, the Authority has made the decision that it has no alternative but to withdraw the pre-notification facility for mergers. The GCRA will attempt to fund this support for as long as it can taking account of its governance responsibilities but the likely date for withdrawal of the pre-notification facility is 1 January 2026.
3. Following the withdrawal of pre-notification, the following procedure will apply:
 - Merging parties will be required to complete the merger application form in the usual way.
 - Submission of draft applications or meetings to discuss the form or nature of a transaction or information requirements will not be available and applicants will be required to rely only on the GCRA guidelines which are made available on its website.
 - On receipt of the completed merger application form, the non-confidential version of the merger application form and the merger filing fee, the GCRA will publish a notice of application on its website, and the consultation period will begin.
 - Should the GCRA require further information or clarifications from the parties concerning the notified transaction this will need to be sought post-notification, in place of the current process which is to do so prior to formal application.
4. The GCRA has updated its Guideline 6B to update the above change. The position will be kept under review

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