

**Anticipated joint venture between Vodafone Group Plc and CK
Hutchison Group Telecom Holdings Limited concerning
Vodafone UK Limited and Hutchison 3G UK Limited
Invitation to comment: 11 October 2023 to 1 November 2023**

On 14 June 2023, Vodafone Group Plc and CK Hutchison Group Telecom Holdings Limited entered into an agreement to form a joint venture to combine their operating businesses in the United Kingdom, respectively Vodafone UK Limited and Hutchison 3G UK Limited (the **Merger**).

The Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) will be considering whether it is or may be the case that this Merger, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation under the merger provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 and, if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services.

The CMA is keen to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity to make their views known and present all relevant evidence to the CMA. The CMA is therefore issuing this preliminary ‘invitation to comment’ asking all interested parties to submit to the CMA any initial views on the impact that the proposed merger could have on competition in the UK. This invitation to comment is the first part of the CMA’s information-gathering process, in advance of the CMA’s formal investigation starting.

The CMA may proactively contact companies and organisations that are active in the markets affected by the Merger, or have valuable insights or evidence that could assist the CMA’s investigation.

The CMA’s mandate, by law, is to assess the Merger’s potential impact on competition. The CMA is therefore not investigating other potential effects that the Merger might have on aspects falling outside of its statutory remit such as, for example, employment and/or national security.

To assist it with this investigation, the CMA invites comments from any interested party.

Comments should be provided by the deadline set out above to:

vodafone.three@cma.gov.uk

All updates on significant case developments will be available on the [CMA case page](#).