

COMPETITION

DID YOU KNOW?

1

Advise on all aspects of UK and EU competition law - including merger control, competition investigations and competition litigation, as well as other areas such as State aid and public procurement.

2

Creativity in structuring deals to fall within or outside the jurisdiction of particular regulators – such as the European Commission or Competition & Markets Authority, either to ensure a deal is considered by the regulator that is likely to review it the most favourably, or to take a deal outside the scope of merger control review completely.

3

Involved in some of the most ground breaking cases that have shaped the way in which competition law is enforced in the UK today - we successfully brought the first ever challenge to an Office of Fair Trading merger clearance decision (in the IBA Health case) and were instrumental in the decision by the Secretary of State to serve the first ever media intervention notice (in BSKyB/ITV).

WHAT DOES THE TEAM DO?

- Abuse of dominance
- Cartels and anti-competitive agreements
- Commercial arrangements (inc. licensing, distribution and franchising)
- Competition litigation
- Compliance programmes and audit
- Mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures
- Public procurement
- Regulated industries
- State aid
- Strategic alliances and collaboration agreements

CLIENT PROFILE

Particular expertise in the following sectors:

- Construction
- Financial services (especially trading, clearing and settlement)
- Leisure
- Oil/petroleum products
- Pharmaceuticals/life sciences
- Retail/FMCG

WORK HIGHLIGHTS

COMPETITION LITIGATION CASES

Advising on competition litigation cases (e.g. SKF on claims for damages from the automotive bearings cartel and Finnish Chemicals in the Dutch courts).

LADBROKES

Advising Ladbrokes on its merger with Coral, the largest ever retail merger in the UK (by reference to number of shops).

VISA EUROPE

Advising Visa Europe in relation to the anti-trust aspects of its acquisition by Visa Inc., including during the merger control proceedings before the European Commission.

AUDEN MCKENZIE

Advising Auden McKenzie in relation to a dawn raid and subsequent CMA investigation into alleged excessive pricing of hydrocortisone tablets.

VISION EXPRESS

Advising Vision Express in relation to the merger clearance process for its acquisition of a chain of 206 opticians from Tesco.

DIXONS CARPHONE

Advising Dixons Carphone in relation to the CMA merger control review for the merger of BT and EE, and in relation to the European Commission's Phase 2 investigation into the merger of H3G and O2 under the EU Merger Regulation.

MYLAN

Advising Mylan in connection with the investigations by the European Commission and the CMA in relation to patent settlement agreements in the pharmaceutical sector.