



**IN THE COMPETITION
APPEAL TRIBUNAL**

Case No: 1116/4/8/09

B E T W E E N

SPORTS DIRECT INTERNATIONAL PLC

Applicant

-v-

COMPETITION COMMISSION

Respondent

ORDER

UPON reading the decision of the Competition Commission (“the Commission”), contained in a letter dated 16 November 2009, to redact certain information from working papers sent to the Applicant during a merger inquiry involving the Applicant

AND UPON reading the notice of application lodged by Sports Direct International plc (“Sports Direct”) under rules 8 and 25 of The Competition Appeal Tribunal Rules 2003 (S.I. No. 1372 of 2003) (“the Tribunal Rules”) on 18 November 2009

AND UPON reading the letter from Treasury Solicitor dated 19 November 2009 containing the Commission’s observations on the future course of the proceedings

AND UPON reading the request for permission to intervene from the Office of Fair Trading (“the OFT”) dated 19 November 2009

AND UPON hearing counsel for the parties and the proposed intervener at a case management conference on 20 November 2009

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The OFT’s request for permission to intervene in these proceedings be granted
2. Any other requests for permission to intervene under rule 16 must be received by the Registry no later than 4.00pm on 23 November 2009

3. In relation to the proceedings before the Tribunal:
 - a. The Commission file and serve its defence and supporting materials by 4.00pm on 26 November 2009
 - b. The OFT (and any other party granted permission to intervene) file and serve its statement of intervention and any accompanying evidence by 4.00pm on 26 November 2009
 - c. Sports Direct file and serve a reply to the defence and any response to the statements of intervention (if so advised) by 4.00pm on 30 November 2009
 - d. All skeleton arguments are to be filed at the Registry and served on each of the parties by 4.00pm on 2 December 2009
 - e. The parties liaise and prepare an agreed bundle of documents to serve as the core bundle for the hearing, together with an agreed joint bundle of authorities to be referred to at the hearing with key sections flagged for reference
 - f. The parties file six copies of the agreed bundle of documents by 4.00pm on 2 December 2009
 - g. The main hearing be listed for 4 December with a time estimate of one day, with a further day in reserve on 8 December 2009
4. The parties' counsel send to the Registry non-confidential electronic versions (in word and PDF formats) of their pleadings
5. There shall be liberty to apply concerning confidentiality and generally

Lord Carlile of Berriew Q.C.
Chairman of the Competition Appeal Tribunal

Made: 24 November 2009
Drawn: 24 November 2009