



IN THE COMPETITION
APPEAL TRIBUNAL

Case No: 1606/7/7/23

BETWEEN:

NIKKI STOPFORD

Class Representative

- v -

(1) ALPHABET INC.
(2) GOOGLE LLC
(3) GOOGLE IRELAND LIMITED
(4) GOOGLE UK LIMITED

Defendants

ORDER

UPON the Collective Proceedings Order dated 18 December 2024

AND UPON the Order of the Chair made on 25 June 2025 establishing a confidentiality ring (the **Confidentiality Ring Order**)

AND UPON the applications for collective proceedings orders made pursuant to Section 47B of the Competition Act 1998 by Or Brook Class Representative Limited on 16 April 2025 (with case number 1720/7/7/25) (**Brook Claim**) and by Mr Roger Kaye KC on 27 May 2025 (with case number 1733/7/7/25) (**Kaye Claim**), (individually, each an **Advertiser Proceeding**)

AND UPON resolution of the carriage dispute in respect of the Advertiser Proceedings

AND UPON the Order of the Chair made on 21 July 2025, as subsequently amended on 28 October 2025 (the **Amended CMC Order**)

AND UPON the parties in both these proceedings and the Advertiser Proceedings having produced, pursuant to paragraphs 1–3 of the Amended CMC Order, an agreed composite list of issues comprising the key issues in dispute which are common to their respective claims (**List of Core Issues**), with each being a **Core Issue**

AND UPON the Defendants having filed and served a disclosure report (the **Disclosure Report**) and an Electronic Disclosure Questionnaire (the **EDQ**) on 19 December 2025 pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Amended CMC Order

AND UPON the Order of the Chair made on 18 December 2025 (the **Further Disclosure Order**)

AND UPON hearing counsel for the Class Representative and the Defendants at a case management conference held on 20 April 2026

AND UPON the following definitions applying for the purpose of this Order:

CMA Materials means documents pertaining to the Competition and Markets Authority’s Online Platforms and Digital Advertising Market Study, Mobile Ecosystems Market Study, and Mobile Browsers and Cloud Gaming Market Investigation, as described in the Schedule to the Disclosure Report.

EC Materials means documents pertaining to European Commission Case AT.40099 Google Android, as described in the Schedule to the Disclosure Report.

Existing Disclosure Repositories means the CMA Materials, EC Materials and US Productions, in each case as defined in this Order (each an **Existing Disclosure Repository**).

Forensic Document Search means a document search undertaken by the Defendants to locate documents responsive to a request involving the application of search terms and/or date ranges over specific repositories, including those belonging to particular custodians (where applicable).

US Productions means documents pertaining to *United States of America et. al. v Google LLC* (Case No 1:20-cv-03010-APM) and *State of Colorado et al. v Google LLC* (Case No. 1:20-cv-03715-APM), as described in the Schedule to the Disclosure Report.

AND UPON the Defendants having provided initial disclosure of documents from within the Existing Disclosure Repositories, pursuant to the Amended CMC Order and the Further Disclosure Order (**Initial Disclosure**)

AND UPON the Class Representative having applied to the Tribunal on 10 April 2026 for an Order that the Defendants provide further information required by and/or arising out of the Disclosure Report and the EDQ (the **Application**)

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Defendants (**Google**) shall, by 4pm on 19 June 2026, provide the following information in writing to the Class Representative:
 - (1) In accordance with the requirements of Q1 of the EDQ, the date ranges that Google considers appropriate for the purposes of searching for documents relevant to each of the issues in the List of Core Issues.
 - (2) In accordance with the requirements of Q2 of the EDQ, the custodian(s) and/or creator(s) of electronic documents who Google considers may have or have had custody of documents that are or may be relevant to each of the issues in the List of Core Issues, by reference to relevant date ranges. For the avoidance of doubt, such custodian(s) and/or creator(s) shall not be limited to those holding documents currently contained in the Existing Disclosure Repositories.
 - (3) In relation to the Existing Disclosure Repositories:
 - (i) a narrative description of whether and how each Existing Disclosure Repository relates to the Core Issues;
 - (ii) a narrative description of how the US Productions, CMA Materials and EC Materials were collated to the extent such information is proportionate to provide; and
 - (iii) insofar as documents were collected in response to Forensic Document Searches, the following information to the extent proportionate to provide:

- a. the repositories over which the searches were undertaken;
- b. the individual custodians whose documents were searched;
- c. any date ranges used; and
- d. any keywords/keyword strings used.

(4) As to the Initial Disclosure:

(i) In relation to the US Productions:

- a. how many documents are contained within the US Productions;
- b. how many documents are within the categories of the US Productions listed in paragraph 1 of the Further Disclosure Order; and
- c. how many of those documents Google has produced under the Further Disclosure Order, and how it identified the documents to be produced, by reference to the issues in the List of Core Issues (and, insofar as is relevant, to any individual custodians, date ranges, file types, repositories and/or keyword searches used to identify documents to be produced under the Further Disclosure Order).

(ii) In relation to Initial Disclosure from the CMA Materials:

- a. how many documents there are contained within the CMA Materials, broken down for each CMA study;
- b. how many documents are within the categories of the CMA Materials listed in paragraph 1 of the Further Disclosure Order; and

- c. how many of those documents Google has produced under the Further Disclosure Order, and how it identified the documents to be produced by reference to the issues in the List of Core Issues (and, insofar as is relevant, to any individual custodians, date ranges, file types, repositories and/or keyword searches used to identify documents to be produced under the Further Disclosure Order).
- (5) In accordance with the requirements of Q3 of the EDQ, details of all forms of electronic communication that were in use within Google during the date range(s) provided in response to (1) above. For the avoidance of doubt, such details shall not be limited to communications currently contained in the Existing Disclosure Repositories.
- (6) In accordance with the requirements of Q4 of the EDQ, details of all forms of electronic documents that were created or stored by Google during the date range(s) provided in response to Request (1) above. For the avoidance of doubt, such details shall not be limited to electronic documents currently contained in the Existing Disclosure Repositories.
- (7) In accordance with the requirements of Q5 of the EDQ, details of all database systems used by Google during the date range(s) provided in response to Request (1) above and which may contain electronic documents disclosable in relation to the issues in the List of Core Issues. For the avoidance of doubt, such details shall not be limited to database systems containing documents forming part of the Existing Disclosure Repositories.
- (8) In accordance with the requirements of Q6 of the EDQ, in so far as not already provided pursuant to (4) above, details of any keywords that Google used (by reference, if applicable, to individual custodians, creators, repositories, file types and/or date ranges) for the purposes of providing Initial Disclosure, by reference to the issues in the List of Core Issues.

- (9) In accordance with the requirements of Q7 of the EDQ, details of the automated searches or automated techniques, other than keyword searches, that Google has used to provide the Initial Disclosure.
2. In respect of paragraph 1(2) above, should Google consider it disproportionate to make further enquiries as to whether a potential particular individual custodian or potential category of custodian is likely to hold documents that are relevant to the issues in the List of Core Issues, it shall, as part of the information provided under that paragraph, identify the potential custodian name / potential custodian category in question, explain its reasons to the Class Representative and seek clarification as to whether the Class Representative requires it to make such further enquiries. If the parties cannot agree whether such further enquiries should be carried out, they shall ask the Tribunal to determine the matter on the papers.
 3. In respect of paragraphs 1(5), 1(6) and 1(7), should Google consider it disproportionate to search for electronic communications or electronic documents of a particular form, or to search within a particular database system, it shall, as part of the information it provides under those paragraphs, identify the form of electronic communication or electronic document, or database system in question and explain its reasons to the Class Representative.
 4. In the light of the information provided by Google under paragraph 1 above, the Class Representative shall provide in writing to Google her comments and proposals in relation to Google's further disclosure in these proceedings, including (if so advised) any further specific disclosure requests, in relation to the issues in the List of Core Issues, by 31 July 2026.
 5. Google shall provide its response to the Class Representative's comments and/or proposal and/or specific disclosure requests under paragraph 2 above by 25 September 2026.
 6. Any disagreement between the parties as to Google's further disclosure in relation to the issues in the List of Core Issues shall be determined by the Tribunal at the CMC to be listed pursuant to paragraph 21 of the Amended CMC Order.

7. By agreement the parties may vary without further order any deadline in this Order provided that they inform the Tribunal of such agreement in advance of the expiry of the relevant deadline and the extension does not affect the dates of any listed hearings.
8. Any application by Google for an extension of the deadline in paragraph 1 above shall be accompanied by an appropriately detailed description of the steps that it has already carried out and the steps that remain to be carried out.
9. Costs in the case.

The Honourable Mr Justice Meade
Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal

Made: 20 April 2026
Drawn: 6 May 2026