



Competition Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 41

PART I

COMPETITION

CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

Confidentiality and immunity from defamation

56 Director and Secretary of State to have regard to certain matters in relation to the disclosure of information

- (1) This section applies if the Secretary of State or the Director is considering whether to disclose any information acquired by him under, or as a result of, any provision of this Part.
- (2) He must have regard to the need for excluding, so far as is practicable, information the disclosure of which would in his opinion be contrary to the public interest.
- (3) He must also have regard to—
 - (a) the need for excluding, so far as is practicable—
 - (i) commercial information the disclosure of which would, or might, in his opinion, significantly harm the legitimate business interests of the undertaking to which it relates, or
 - (ii) information relating to the private affairs of an individual the disclosure of which would, or might, in his opinion, significantly harm his interests; and
 - (b) the extent to which the disclosure is necessary for the purposes for which the Secretary of State or the Director is proposing to make the disclosure.