



# Competition Act 1980

## 1980 CHAPTER 21

### *Further references and investigations*

#### **13 Investigations of prices directed by Secretary of State**

- (1) If so directed by the Secretary of State, the Director shall carry out an investigation into any price specified in the direction with a view to providing the Secretary of State with information of a description so specified relating to that price: but the giving of a direction under this section shall not affect the power of the Director to initiate an investigation under section 3 above (subject to subsection (5) of that section) into a course of conduct pursued by any person by or to whom the price specified in the direction is charged.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall not give a direction under this section unless he is satisfied that the price in question is one of major public concern and, in this connection, he shall have regard to whether—
  - (a) the provision or acquisition of the goods or services in question is of general economic importance; or
  - (b) consumers are significantly affected, whether directly or indirectly, by the price.
- (3) The Secretary of State may at any time vary or revoke a direction given under this section, but he shall not exercise his power to vary such a direction unless he is satisfied that the direction as proposed to be varied would be such as he could have given, having regard to subsection (2) above.
- (4) On giving a direction under this section or on varying or revoking such a direction, the Secretary of State shall arrange for the direction, variation or revocation to be published in such manner as he considers most suitable for bringing it to the attention of persons who, in his opinion, would be affected by, or be likely to have an interest in, the investigation to which the direction, variation or revocation relates.
- (5) A direction under this section shall specify a period within which the Director is to report on his investigation to the Secretary of State, and, before the expiry of the period specified in the direction (whether as originally given or as varied under subsection (3) above), the Director shall make a report on the investigation to the Secretary of State—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (a) stating his findings of fact which are material to the information which he is required to provide in accordance with the direction ; and
  - (b) containing such additional observations (if any) as the Director considers should be brought to the attention of the Secretary of State as a result of the investigation.
- (6) Subsections (7) and (8) of section 3 above shall have effect in relation to an investigation under this section as they have effect in relation to an investigation under that section.