



# Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 48

### PART IV

#### REGISTERED DESIGNS

##### *Amendments of the Registered Designs Act 1949*

#### **270 Powers exercisable for protection of the public interest**

In the Registered Designs Act 1949 after section 11 insert—

##### **“11A Powers exercisable for protection of the public interest**

- (1) Where a report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been laid before Parliament containing conclusions to the effect—
- (a) on a monopoly reference, that a monopoly situation exists and facts found by the Commission operate or may be expected to operate against the public interest,
  - (b) on a merger reference, that a merger situation qualifying for investigation has been created and the creation of the situation, or particular elements in or consequences of it specified in the report, operate or may be expected to operate against the public interest,
  - (c) on a competition reference, that a person was engaged in an anti-competitive practice which operated or may be expected to operate against the public interest, or
  - (d) on a reference under section 11 of the Competition Act 1980 (reference of public bodies and certain other persons), that a person is pursuing a course of conduct which operates against the public interest,

the appropriate Minister or Ministers may apply to the registrar to take action under this section.

- (2) Before making an application the appropriate Minister or Ministers shall publish, in such a manner as he or they think appropriate, a notice describing the

nature of the proposed application and shall consider any representations which may be made within 30 days of such publication by persons whose interests appear to him or them to be affected.

- (3) If on an application under this section it appears to the registrar that the matters specified in the Commission's report as being those which in the Commission's opinion operate or operated or may be expected to operate against the public interest include—
- (a) conditions in licences granted in respect of a registered design by its proprietor restricting the use of the design by the licensee or the right of the proprietor to grant other licences, or
  - (b) a refusal by the proprietor of a registered design to grant licences on reasonable terms,
- he may by order cancel or modify any such condition or may, instead or in addition, make an entry in the register to the effect that licences in respect of the design are to be available as of right.
- (4) The terms of a licence available by virtue of this section shall, in default of agreement, be settled by the registrar on an application by the person requiring the licence; and terms so settled shall authorise the licensee to do everything which would be an infringement of the right in the registered design in the absence of a licence.
- (5) Where the terms of a licence are settled by the registrar the licence has effect from the date on which the application to him was made.
- (6) An appeal lies from any order of the registrar under this section.
- (7) In this section “the appropriate Minister or Ministers” means the Minister or Ministers to whom the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was made.

### **11B Undertaking to take licence of right in infringement proceedings**

- (1) If in proceedings for infringement of the right in a registered design in respect of which a licence is available as of right under section 11A of this Act the defendant undertakes to take a licence on such terms as may be agreed or, in default of agreement, settled by the registrar under that section—
- (a) no injunction shall be granted against him, and
  - (b) the amount recoverable against him by way of damages or on an account of profits shall not exceed double the amount which would have been payable by him as licensee if such a licence on those terms had been granted before the earliest infringement.
- (2) An undertaking may be given at any time before final order in the proceedings, without any admission of liability.
- (3) Nothing in this section affects the remedies available in respect of an infringement committed before licences of right were available.”.