Competition Act 1998

CHAPTER 41

COMPETITION ACT 1998

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Terms used
1 In this Schedule—“applicant” means the person making...

General rules about applications
2 (1) An application must be made in accordance with rules....
Preliminary investigation

3 (1) If, after a preliminary investigation of an application, the...

Procedure on application for guidance

4 When determining an application for guidance, the OFT must follow...

Procedure on application for a decision

5 (1) When determining an application for a decision, the OFT...

Publication of decisions

6 If the OFT determines an application for a decision it...

Delay by the OFT

7 (1) This paragraph applies if the court is satisfied, on...

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6 The requirements of paragraph 3 shall not apply if the...

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3 (1) The Commission is to have a chairman appointed by...

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9 (1) The Telecommunications Act 1984 is amended as follows.

The Gas Act 1986 (c.44)

10 (1) The Gas Act 1986 is amended as follows.

The Water Act 1989 (c.15)

11 In section 174(3) of the Water Act 1989 (general restrictions...

The Electricity Act 1989 (c.29)

12 (1) The Electricity Act 1989 is amended as follows.

The Water Industry Act 1991 (c.56)

13 (1) The Water Industry Act 1991 is amended as follows....

The Water Resources Act 1991 (c.57)

14 In Schedule 24 to the Water Resources Act 1991 (disclosure...
The Railways Act 1993 (c.43)

15 (1) The Railways Act 1993 is amended as follows.

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 (c.61)

16 (1) The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 is amended...

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17 (1) The Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 is amended as...

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1 (1) The Fair Trading Act 1973 is amended as follows....

The Energy Act 1976 (c.76)

2 In the Energy Act 1976, omit section 5 (temporary relief...

The Estate Agents Act 1979 (c.38)

3 In section 10(3) of the Estate Agents Act 1979 (restriction...

The Competition Act 1980 (c.21)

4 (1) The Competition Act 1980 is amended as follows.


5 In Schedule 6 to the Magistrates’ Courts (Northern Ireland) Order...

Agricultural Marketing (Northern Ireland) Order 1982 (S.I. 1982/1080 (N.I. 12))

6 In Schedule 8 to the Agricultural Marketing (Northern Ireland) Order...

The Airports Act 1986 (c.31)

7 (1) The Airports Act 1986 is amended as follows.
8 In Schedule 11 to the Financial Services Act 1986, in...


9 In Part II of Schedule 1 to the Companies Consolidation...

The Consumer Protection Act 1987 (c.43)

10 In section 38(3) of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (restrictions...

The Channel Tunnel Act 1987 (c.53)

11 In section 33 of the Channel Tunnel Act 1987—

The Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (c.54)

12 In Schedule 3 to the Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act...

The Companies Act 1989 (c.40)

13 In Schedule 20 to the Companies Act 1989 (amendments about...

The Broadcasting Act 1990 (c.42)

14 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

The Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 (c.53)

15 In Schedule 1 to the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992...

The Osteopaths Act 1993 (c.21)

16 Section 33 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 (competition and anti...

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17 Section 33 of the Chiropractors Act 1994 (competition and anti...

The Coal Industry Act 1994 (c.21)

18 In section 59(4) of the Coal Industry Act 1994 (information...

The Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 (c.40)

19 (1) The Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 is amended...


20 (1) The Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 is amended as...

The Broadcasting Act 1996 (c.55)

21 In section 77 of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (which modifies...

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1 (1) In this Schedule— “RPA” means the Resale Prices Act...

General power to make transitional provision and savings
2 (1) Nothing in this Schedule affects the power of the...

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3 (1) The Director may publish advice and information explaining provisions...

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10 (1) This paragraph applies even though the relevant provisions of...

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11 (1) Even though section 3 of the RTPA is repealed...

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12 (1) Even though section 26 of the RTPA is repealed...
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13 (1) Even though section 35 of the RTPA is repealed...

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14 (1) The Chapter I prohibition does not apply to an...

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15 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule “continuing proceedings” means...

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16 Proceedings on an application for an order under section 4...

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19 (1) Except where this Chapter or Chapter IV provides otherwise,...

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20 (1) There is no transitional period for an agreement to...

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21 In the case of an agreement which is the subject...

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22 (1) In the case of an agreement relating to goods...

Provisions not contrary to public interest

23 (1) To the extent to which an agreement contains provisions...

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24 (1) In the case of an agreement relating to goods...

Transitional period for certain agreements

25 (1) This paragraph applies to agreements— (a) which are subject...
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27 In this Chapter “the relevant period” means the period beginning...

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28 (1) For an agreement to which, immediately before the starting...

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29 (1) There is a transitional period for an agreement (whether...

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30 (1) For an agreement to which, immediately before the starting...

Gas: power to make transitional orders

31 (1) There is a transitional period for an agreement of...

Gas: Northern Ireland

32 (1) For an agreement to which, immediately before the starting...

Gas: Northern Ireland – power to make transitional orders

33 (1) There is a transitional period for an agreement of...

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34 (1) In this paragraph— “section 131” means section 131 of...

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35 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), each of the regulators may...

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36 (1) A party to an agreement for which there is...

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37 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the Director may by a...
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38  (1) If the Director is considering whether to give a...

Procedural requirements on giving a paragraph 37 direction

39  (1) The Director must specify in a direction under paragraph...

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40  (1) If, on the date on which the repeal by...

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41  (1) In this paragraph— “the 1973 Act” means the Fair...

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42  (1) The repeals made by section 1 do not affect...

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43  (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), an undertaking accepted by the...

Application of sections 25 and 26

44  The repeals made by section 1 do not affect—

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45  (1) Section 55 of this Act applies in relation to...

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Competition Act 1998 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 October 2019. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.
View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :
- s. 10 heading words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(2)
- Pt. 2 omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 24
- Pt. 2A omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 24
- s. 10(1) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(4)
- s. 10(2) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(4)
- s. 10(3) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(5)
- s. 10(4) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(6)(a)
- s. 10(4)(a) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(6)(b)
- s. 10(4)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(6)(c)
- s. 10(5)(a) words inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(7)(a)(ii)
- s. 10(5)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(7)(a)(i)
- s. 10(5)(d) words inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(7)(b)
- s. 10(9)-(11) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(8)
- s. 11 omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 5
- s. 25(3) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(2)
- s. 25(5) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(2)
- s. 25(7) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(2)
- s. 25(8)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(3)
- s. 25(9) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(4)
- s. 25(10) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(5)
- s. 25(11) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(6)
- s. 25(12) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 6(7)
- s. 25A(1)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 7
- s. 31(2)(a) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 8(a)
- s. 31(2)(c) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 8(b)
- s. 31(2)(d) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 8(b)
- s. 32 modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110A(7)(a) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s. 9(1)
- s. 32 modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110B(5)(a) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s. 9(1)
- s. 32(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 9
- s. 33(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 10
- s. 35(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 11(a)
- s. 35(2) modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110A(7)(b)(8) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s. 9(1)
- s. 35(2) modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110B(5)(b) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s. 9(1)
- s. 35(6) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 11(b)
- s. 35(7) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 11(c)
- s. 35(9) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 11(d)
- s. 36(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 12(a)
- s. 36(2) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 12(b)
- s. 36(7A)(b)(i) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 12(c)(i)
- s. 36(7A)(b)(ii) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 12(c)(ii)
- s. 38(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 13(a)
- s. 38(1A) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 13(b)
- s. 38(9) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 13(c)
- s. 38(10) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 13(c)
- s. 40A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 13A (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 4
- s. 46(3)(b) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 14(a)
- s. 46(3)(d) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 14(a)
- s. 46(3)(e) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 14(b)
– s. 46(3)(f) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 14(c)
– s. 47(1)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 15 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 15 substituted immediately before exit day by S.I. 2019/1245, regs. 1(3), 6)
– s. 47(1)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 15(a) (as substituted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 6
– s. 47A(2)(a) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 16(2)(a)
– s. 47A(2)(c) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 16(2)(b)
– s. 47A(2)(d) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 16(2)(b)
– s. 47A(6) substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 16(3)
– s. 49C(11) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 17
– s. 52(1A) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 18
– s. 58(2) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 19(2)(a)
– s. 58(2) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 19(2)(b)
– s. 58(2) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 19(3)(a)
– s. 58(2) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 19(3)(b)
– s. 58A(4) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 20
– s. 59(1) word substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(3)
– s. 59(1) words inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(4)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(a)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(b)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(c)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(d)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(e)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(f)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(g)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(h)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(i)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(j)
– s. 59(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 21(2)(k)
– s. 60 omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 22
– s. 72(1) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 25
– s. 73(4) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 26(2)(a)
– s. 73(4)(a) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 26(2)(b)
– s. 73(4)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 26(2)(c)
– s. 73(6) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 26(3)
– s. 73(6A) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 26(4)
– s. 73(8)(a) words omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 26(5)(a)
– s. 73(8)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 26(5)(b)
– s. 75A omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 27
– Sch. 1 Pt. 2 omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 28
– Sch. 2 para. 3 repealed by 2004 c. 27 Sch. 8
– Sch. 3 para. 9 applied by Regulation (EC) No. 1379/2013, Art. 41(4) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/739 reg. 19(31)(d)
– Sch. 3 para. 5(3)(b) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 29(3)
– Sch. 3 para. 5(3)(c) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 29(3)
– Sch. 3 para. 3 and cross-heading omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 29(2)
– Sch. 6A para. 7 words inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 29A(3) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 7
– Sch. 7 para. 2(1)(d)(iii) substituted by 2003 c. 21 Sch. 17 para. 153(2) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 7 para. 21(1)(d)(iii) was fully repealed (29.12.2003) by Communications Act 2003 (c. 21), s. 411(2), Sch. 19(1) (with Sch. 18); S.I. 2003/1900, arts. 1(2), 2(1), Sch. 1 (with art. 3) (as amended by S.I. 2003/3142, art. 1(3)); S.I. 2003/3141, art. 3(1), Sch. 1 (with art. 11))
– Sch. 7 para. 19A words omitted by 2012 c. 19 Sch. 9 para. 9
– Sch. 8A para. 21(3) modified by S.I. 2019/93 Sch. 4 para. 7(4)(b) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 para. 7(4) omitted immediately before exit day by virtue of S.I. 2019/1245, regs. 1(3), 35(3)(b))
Sch. 8A para. 21(3) modified by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 4 paras. 4(1B)(b), 7 (as amended) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 35(2)(3)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(a) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(2)(a)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(b) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(2)(b)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(c) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(2)(b)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(d) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(2)(b)

Sch. 8A para. 3(1)(c) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(3)(a)(ii)

Sch. 8A para. 3(1)(d) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(3)(a)(ii)

Sch. 8A para. 3(2) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(3)(b)

Sch. 8A para. 3(5) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(3)(d)

Sch. 8A para. 3(6) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(3)(d)

Sch. 8A para. 35 and cross-heading omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(6)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(a) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(2)(a)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(b) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(2)(b)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(c) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(2)(c)

Sch. 8A para. 2(1)(d) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(4)(a)

Sch. 8A para. 14(1)(a) words inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(5)

Sch. 8A para. 3(4) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(3)(c)(i)

Sch. 8A para. 3(4) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(3)(c)(ii)

Sch. 9 para. 5(1)(d)(i) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(2)(b)

Sch. 9 para. 5(1)(d)(ii) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(2)(c)

Sch. 9 para. 5(2)(b) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(3)(b)

Sch. 9 para. 5(2)(d) and word omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(3)(c)

Sch. 9 para. 8(b) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(4)

Sch. 9 para. 5(1)(d)(i) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(2)(a)

Sch. 9 para. 5(2)(a) word inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(3)(a)

Sch. 9 para. 9(a)(i) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(6)

Sch. 9 para. 10 and cross-heading omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(7)

Sch. 9 para. 9 cross-heading substituted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 31(5)

Sch. 10 Pt. 1 words substituted by 2003 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 19(p)

Sch. 11 words substituted by 2003 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 19(p)

Sch. 12 para. 3 repealed by 2002 c. 40 Sch. 26

Sch. 12 para. 4(9)(10) repealed by 2002 c. 40 Sch. 26

Sch. 12 para. 10 repealed by 2002 c. 40 Sch. 26

Sch. 12 para. 14(3) repealed by 2003 c. 21 Sch. 19(1) Note 1 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 12 para. 14 was repealed (20.6.2003) by The Enterprise Act 2002 (Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/1398), art. 1, Sch. para. 32(3)(d))

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Blanket Amendment words substituted by 2005 c. 4 Sch. 11 para. 5

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

s. 10(A1) inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(3)

s. 10(12) inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 3(9)

s. 10A inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 4

s. 31G-31L and cross-heading inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 8A (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 3

s. 46(3)(ha)(hb) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 14(d) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 5

s. 47(1)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 15(b) (as substituted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 6

s. 60A inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 23

Sch. 6A para. 1A inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 29A(2) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 7

Sch. 6A Pt. 3 inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 29A(4) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 7
– Sch. 8A para. 12(6) inserted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 30(4)(b)