

EU & Competition

TRAVERS SMITH

Our service



“Consistently noted for its record in merger control, Travers Smith LLP has also developed a very credible behavioural practice, given additional emphasis by the promotion of Nigel Seay to the partnership.”

Legal 500

“The highly regarded Margaret Moore heads the practice, which moves up a tier this year and is praised as combining a ‘command of the subject with commendable commercial thinking’.”

Legal 500

“Described as a ‘brilliant tactical lawyer’ Moore ‘has good relationship with regulators and knows exactly how they think’.”

Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession

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EU & Competition

Our EU & Competition Department provides pragmatic advice and effective representation on all aspects of EU and UK competition law

The EU & Competition Department has recognised expertise in advising on the competition and regulatory implications of mergers and acquisitions, as well as the full range of behavioural competition matters (abuse of dominance, cartels and other restrictive agreements). We also advise on other EU law matters, such as state aid and public procurement, and on utilities regulation.

Merger control

We have a strong track record in advising on the competition and regulatory issues raised by mergers, acquisitions and other business combinations. Our advice ranges from early input on structuring proposed transactions so as to address potential competition issues through to management of those filings which are required or advisable so as to ensure that transactions are cleared as rapidly as possible and with a minimum of inconvenience. We handle merger clearance procedures before the European Commission (under the EC Merger Regulation) and before the Office of Fair Trading and Competition Commission in the UK. We also regularly co-ordinate the provision of merger control advice to clients in respect of other key jurisdictions around the world in conjunction with our carefully selected network of overseas law firms.

Proactive advice on business conduct and commercial arrangements

We also regularly act for clients on stand-alone behavioural matters. At both EU and UK level, businesses face an increasingly complex and high profile competition enforcement environment. Private competition law enforcement is being encouraged across the EU and, in the UK, such actions are a developing trend, as is the increasing deployment of competition law arguments in commercial disputes.

We work proactively with clients to assist them in tailoring their business conduct and structuring their business arrangements so as to minimise the potential risks arising from this increasingly testing environment. We advise dominant incumbents in various sectors on their unilateral conduct vis a vis competitors and customers and advise dominant and non-dominant clients in relation to a wide range of commercial agreements. We also design and implement compliance programmes across a broad spectrum of sectors.

Investigations by regulators, complaints and court action

We have extensive experience of successfully representing clients in investigations by competition regulators and in responding to complaints of anti-competitive behaviour. We are also involved in representing clients who are the victims of anti-competitive behaviour, whether in making a complaint to the European Commission, Office of Fair Trading or other relevant UK regulator or taking action to protect their position through the courts.

Approach

Knowledge of the relevant competition legislation and case law is important, but so too is an awareness of the commercial objectives of the client and a familiarity with the approach of the various regulators.

The EU & Competition Department provides pragmatic and constructive advice based on a proper assessment of legal risk against the achievement of the client's commercial objectives. We maintain strong relationships with the various EU and UK regulators and are able to advise on what is and what is not achievable in practice with each regulator.

For further information about how we can help, please contact:

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