

## **Press release: New panel member appointed to Undercover Policing Inquiry**

The Home Secretary has appointed Mr Justice Mitting as a panel member on the Undercover Policing Inquiry with a view to him taking over as chairman.

Sir Christopher Pitchford announced in February that he would not be able to complete the work of the Inquiry himself due to ill health.

After seeking the advice of the Lord Chief Justice and consulting Sir Christopher on suitable replacements, Sir John Mitting has been chosen by the Home Secretary to join the Inquiry as a panel member. He will provide support to Sir Christopher with a view to succeeding him as chairman.

Sir John Mitting has been a High Court judge in England and Wales since 2001. He served as the chairman of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission from 2007 to 2012.

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## **News story: CNC officers visit college to spread the word about Project Servator**

PC James Brown, an Authorised Firearms Officer at Sellafield, set up the visit and spoke to 250 students and teachers at the Lakes College in Workington, alongside colleagues from the CNC Firearms Training Unit and officers from Cumbria Constabulary, who James invited to take part.

The aim of the visit was to discuss community engagement and Jamie and his CNC colleagues talked about Project Servator and its national rollout, as well as the Stay Safe campaign and the importance of reporting suspicious activity.

Project Servator sees highly visible yet unpredictable deployments of specially trained CNC officers around the Sellafield site and the surrounding local community. The operational deployments involve officers working together with communities to report suspicious activity. These officers are deployed to deter, help detect, and provide reassurance and confidence to members of the public.

The tactics used as part of Project Servator are not new and are also used regularly by the City of London Police, British Transport Police and Police Scotland. They have been developed to enhance the effectiveness of our resources and not as a response to any change in threat.

PC Brown said: "We had very positive feedback from the students who listened to our talk and were able to ask questions about our role. As a national armed police force, a major part of our role is counter terrorism policing. We need the local communities around our sites to be vigilant to any suspicious activity and it was great to be able to get this message across to the young people at the schools and colleges we visited.

"As well as setting up other visits to schools and colleges in the area, Project Servator officers have also visited offices and local business to spread awareness of the initiative.

"We have been invited back to the Lakes College in September to speak to their new intake of students and look forward to meeting them and spreading awareness of the CNC, Project Servator and the part they can play in community policing."

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## [News story: Government Chemist represented at 2017 Codex meeting in Budapest](#)

The Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling held its 38<sup>th</sup> Session in Budapest, Hungary, from 8 to 12 May 2017. The Session was attended by 47 Member countries, 1 Member Organisation and Observers from 11 international organisations.

Under UK law, local authorities and food business operators can call upon the Government Chemist to arbitrate technical disputes on analytical or interpretation issues in food analysis. Incorrect sampling, analysis or interpretation can lead to disputes, and it is therefore important that the Government Chemist contributes to and keeps informed of international Codex developments.

[Selvarani Elahi](#), representing the UK Government Chemist, attended as part of the UK delegation together with colleagues from the Food Standards Agency and the Association of Public Analysts.

The meeting considered methods of analysis for Codex standards and testing in relation to international food trade. Participants discussed analytical methods for safety issues, including allergens, mycotoxins and metals, and food quality. Sampling plans, measurement uncertainty, equivalency of

methods, method performance criteria for multi-component methods, criteria for biological methods to detect chemicals of concern and Codex general guidelines for sampling were also discussed in order to reach a global consensus on the best approaches to use.

The [draft report](#) of the meeting is available from the Codex Alimentarius website.

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## **News story: Consultation on solving online auction competition concerns**

The CMA is consulting on ATG Media's proposal to change its practices to address concerns it unlawfully shut rivals out of the market.

ATG Media is the largest provider of live online bidding platforms in the UK. These platforms are used by auction houses to allow people to bid online, while an auction is ongoing, without having to be there in person.

Last November the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) opened an investigation into concerns that the company's practices may be anti-competitive. In particular, the concerns were that ATG Media may be excluding rivals from the market by:

- requiring exclusivity from its auction house customers (that is, stopping them from also using competing platforms)
- preventing its auction house customers from allowing bidders to use rival platforms at lower cost (a form of 'most favoured nation' or 'parity' provision)
- preventing auction houses from advertising and promoting the services of competitors to ATG Media

ATG Media has offered legally binding assurances (known as commitments) to remove all of these restrictions. The CMA considers that the proposed commitments address the competition concerns identified, but first invites comments from those who are likely to be affected. If accepted by the CMA, the commitments will bring the investigation to an end.

Further details about how to respond to this consultation are set out in the [notice](#) of the proposed commitments, which the CMA has issued today. Further details about the CMA's investigation can be found on the [case page](#). Comments on the proposed commitments should be received by no later than 19 June 2017.

### **Notes for editors**

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority.

2. The Chapter I prohibition in the Competition Act 1998 (the Act) prohibits anti-competitive agreements and concerted practices between businesses which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the UK. The Chapter II prohibition in the Act prohibits the abuse of a dominant position by one or more companies which may affect trade within the UK or a part of it. Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) contain equivalent provisions applicable where there may be an effect on trade between EU Member States.
3. On 22 November 2016, the CMA launched an investigation into suspected breaches of competition law in respect of the supply of auction services in the UK. The investigation is under Chapters I and II of the Act, and Articles 101 and 102 TFEU. The investigation relates to suspected anti-competitive agreement(s) or concerted practice(s) and suspected abuse of dominance in the supply of auction services in the UK, in particular, suspected exclusionary and restrictive pricing practices, including most favoured nation provisions in respect of online sales.
4. Where the CMA has begun an investigation under section 25 of the Act, it may accept commitments to take such action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of addressing the competition concerns it has identified. If the CMA proposes to accept the commitments offered, the CMA will consult those who are likely to be affected by them and give them an opportunity to give the CMA their views. The CMA will take any such representations into account before making a final decision on whether to accept the commitments.
5. Formal acceptance of commitments would result in the CMA terminating its investigation and not proceeding to a decision on whether the Act or the TFEU has been infringed.
6. The CMA also received an application under section 35 of the Act for interim measures in connection with this case. Formal acceptance of commitments would make the giving of any interim measures directions superfluous.

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## [News story: CMA opens Tesco/Booker merger investigation](#)

The CMA has opened its investigation into Tesco's proposed acquisition of Booker.

The first phase of the investigation runs until 25 July 2017. During this period, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) will assess whether the deal could reduce competition and choice for shoppers and other customers, such as stores currently supplied by Booker.

After this first phase, the merger will either be cleared or, if the CMA

identifies a potential reduction in competition, it will be referred for an in-depth investigation lasting up to 24 weeks – unless the merging parties can offer proposals following the first phase of the investigation which address any concerns identified.

Having ensured it has all the necessary information from the companies before opening the investigation, the CMA is now seeking views on the merger from all interested parties.

Those interested are invited to submit their views by 13 June 2017. Further details will be available on the investigation [case page](#).