

Information Template for Government Agencies Seeking Advice from CCS

This information template serves as a guide on the types of information which CCS typically uses as part of its assessment. This information template also serves as a reference for initial discussion between CCS and the requesting government agency. The assessment process will be more expeditious if government agencies are able to provide as much information as possible.

Background

1. Describe the intention of the initiative

2. Explain the background for reviewing or introducing the intended initiative.

3. Describe the option(s) considered including:
 - a. Features of the option(s);
 - b. Factors considered in the choice of the option(s); and
 - c. Rationale for the recommended option, if any

4. List the government agencies involved in the design and implementation of the initiative.

Effects on different stakeholders

5. List the businesses involved in the design and implementation of the initiative.

6. Describe how businesses can be affected by the implementation of the initiative.

7. Describe how other stakeholders (e.g., consumers, patients, jobseekers etc.) can be affected by the implementation of the initiative.

8. Where possible, provide other relevant information, for example policy papers and reference materials that will help CCS in its assessment.

Effects on competition*

9. Does the proposed initiative:
- a. Limit the number or range of sellers?
 - b. Limit the ability of sellers to compete?
 - c. Reduce the incentive of sellers to compete vigorously?
 - d. Limit the choices and information available to consumers?

*refer to Appendix A for the Competition Impact Assessment Checklist.

10. Does the agency have specific competition concerns arising from the initiative?

Administrative Details

11. Contact person(s) of government agency seeking advisory from CCS.

12. Provide the key deadlines, for example internal updates to management, Minister, Parliament, implementation.

13. Can CCS seek feedback on the initiative from:

- a. Other government agencies;
- b. Private sector stakeholders; and
- c. Consumers/public?

Competition Impact Assessment Checklist

In affected markets identified, does the proposed initiative:

1) Limit the number or range of sellers?

For example, does the proposed initiative:

- Grant exclusive rights to a seller for the provision of a product (for example, divestment of government-owned assets)?
- Involve procurement from a single or restricted group of sellers?
- Create a form of licensing scheme for sellers?
- Significantly raise the cost of entry or exit for a seller?

2) Limit the ability of sellers to compete?

For example, does the proposed initiative:

- Control or substantially influence product price, quality or choice, for example,
 - Issuing a schedule to standardise product price, quality or choice across sellers?
 - Set product or quality standards that (i) advantage some sellers over others or (ii) are unnecessarily high relative to consumers' needs?
 - Limit ability of sellers to introduce new products or supply existing products in new ways?
 - Limit the geographic area in which a seller can operate or types of customers it can serve?
- Limit the freedom to advertise or market products?
- Raise the costs of some sellers relative to others?

3) Reduce the incentive of sellers to compete vigorously?

For example, does the proposed initiative:

- Facilitate market players to set rules or engage in practices that reduce the need for them to compete under the pretext of self-regulation?
- Require or encourage the exchange of commercially sensitive information between sellers (for example, prices, output, sales or cost) which may facilitate collusion?
- Facilitate the sharing of resources between sellers that constitute a key cost component of their businesses?
- Restrict the ability of sellers to grow the size of their business?

4) Limit the choices and information available to consumers?

For example, does the proposed initiative:

- Limit the ability of consumers to decide which seller to purchase from?
- Increase the cost (or inconvenience) of switching sellers for consumers?
- Reduce or limit information important for consumers to make purchase decisions effectively?