

# Competition

Our Competition Team is ranked as one of the leading competition practices outside London. The Team comprises four dedicated competition specialists, together with several partners and other colleagues with significant competition, procurement and state-aid law expertise in their specialist areas. Several of our lawyers are recognised by legal directory Legal 500 as leaders in their field. This put us in the top rank of competition lawyers.

Our lawyers draw on their experience of working in-house and for regulators, as well as in private practice. The experience of our Team covers many industries including construction, steel, chemicals, manufacturing and distribution, the motor sector, regulated industries (such as financial services, utilities, health and pharmaceutical), food & drink and retail.

*“The Walker Morris Competition Team has led us through the complexities of the field and provided timely and accurate advice throughout. They have interacted closely and well with our other experts and, as we are US-based, have made the necessary allowances to ensure that we have access to counsel at our convenience and in our time zone.”*

– Enova Financial



## HOW WE CAN HELP

### **Creating value: Supporting you as a trusted advisor, to deliver on your strategic goals**

Advising at executive level within your business: supporting the Board and senior management with practical, commercial advice to manage compliance risks whilst facilitating the achievement of strategic commercial goals - we pride ourselves in “coming off the fence” to help you make these difficult decisions.

### **Project managing complex transactions/deals/cases/inquiries**

Our experience in large, complex market investigations means that we are able to deal with the interrogation of large volumes of data, meet tight deadlines and lead on the interface with competition/regulatory authorities. For example, we acted for the second largest supplier in the payday loan market investigation before the UK’s Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

### **Sharing our insight: Competition policy and external engagement**

Advising clients on the implications of the changing competition regulatory landscape. Most notably, we are advising several clients on policy implications in the financial services sector, given the significant number of inquiries into the sector and establishment of new regulatory bodies. We also assist clients on external engagement with regulators and other Government bodies including the CMA, the European Commission, sectoral regulators and HM Treasury.

### **Securing merger clearance in the UK, EU and further afield**

On mergers and acquisitions, we provide strategic advice on how to structure the deal and whether to file for securing merger clearance in the UK. We build in appropriate protections at the due diligence stage and in negotiating the purchase agreement. We have extensive experience of securing merger clearance from the CMA and the European Commission and of liaising with foreign lawyers to secure clearance under foreign domestic legislation.



### Providing a flexible service tailored to you

We will happily tailor our service to meet your requirements. This might involve us training your own in-house team to better support management on technical competition issues, being available for you to bounce potential issues around before pushing the button on any chargeable work, providing legal updates and horizon scanning on areas of interest and so on. We are equally approachable on fee arrangements and welcome an open dialogue on chargeout rates, fee caps, fixed fees etc. to suit the individual piece of work or relationship.

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Abuse of dominance
- Advice on restrictive agreements
- Anti-trust defence work
- Competition compliance programmes and training
- Competition litigation
- Competition policy
- Complaints to the regulator
- Compliance audits
- "Dawn raid" support
- Leniency applications
- Market studies and investigations
- Merger clearance
- Private enforcement
- Procurement procedures and law
- State aid
- Super complaints

#### WALKER MORRIS

*"A distinctive law firm valued by its clients for consistently delivering excellent results."*

We offer a single site, full service commercial law firm focused on providing our clients, nationally and internationally, with partner-led, high quality advice. Our national centre of excellence in Leeds has significant advantages in terms of developing a strong, collaborative culture, with the inherent value and cost effectiveness that a Leeds base brings.

With a staff of over 450 including 48 partners, Walker Morris is uniquely recognised for its strong multi-disciplinary teamwork and straight forward advice. We offer our clients truly accessible partners who get the job right - providing partner-led advice based on their knowledge and understanding of working with individual clients.

#### CONTACT

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