COMPETITION ECONOMICS HANDBOOK 2020

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Competition Economics Handbook 2020

A Global Competition Review Special Report

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This article was first published in November 2019
For further information please contact Natalie.Clarke@lbresearch.com

Competition Economics Handbook 2020

Insight account manager Bevan Woodhouse

Head of production Adam Myers
Deputy head of production Simon Busby
Editorial coordinator Hannah Higgins
Production editor Harry Turner
Subeditor Hilary Scott

Research editor Tom Barnes
Researcher Helen Barnes

Editor, Global Competition Review Pallavi Guniganti Publisher Clare Bolton

To subscribe please contact Global Competition Review Meridian House, 34-35 Farringdon Street London, EC4A 4HL United Kingdom

Tel: +44 20 7908 9205 Fax: +44 20 7229 6910

subscriptions@globalcompetitionreview.com

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This publication is intended to provide general information on competition law, economics and policy. The information and opinions that it contains are not intended to provide legal advice, and should not be treated as a substitute for specific advice concerning particular situations (where appropriate, from local advisers).

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ISBN: 978-1-83862-221-3

Printed and distributed by Encompass Print Solutions

Tel: 0844 248 0112

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Global Competition Review is delighted to publish this thirteenth annual edition of the Competition Economics Handbook.

With economics at the centre of competition law, this handbook identifies the issues that antitrust economists are tackling today. The book's comprehensive format provides contact details for competition agencies' economists in over 70 jurisdictions. A Q&A format illustrates how the advisers are organised and their input into the regulation and enforcement process.

Much of the information has been provided by the agencies themselves and we are, as ever, grateful for all their cooperation.

The Competition Economics Handbook 2020 is one of five special reports included in a Global Competition Review subscription each year, alongside four issues of the magazine, a survey on a four-year rotation (Corporate Counsel published in January 2019 and 40 Under 40, to be published in January 2020) and two signature surveys, Rating Enforcement and The GCR 100.

We would like to thank all those who have worked on the research and production of this publication.

The information listed is correct as of October 2019.

Global Competition Review

London October 2019

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

4th Floor, Main Post Office Building, Cairo Road, PO Box 34919 Lusaka 10101, Zambia

Tel: +260 211 222 787 / 222 775 / 232 657 / 236 766

Fax: +260 211 222 789 zcomp@ccpc.org.zm

Kitwe Regional Office, PO Box 20158 10101 Kitwe, Zambia

Tel: +260 212 221 115 Fax: +260 212 221 067 ccpckitwe@zamnet.zm www.ccpc.org.zm

Contacts



Chilufya Sampa Executive Director Tel: +260 955 786 634 c.sampa@ccpc.org.zm



Luyamba Mpamba Director, Mergers and Monopolies Tel: +260 977 949 796 I.mpamba@ccpc.org.zm

Naomi Fulaza Director, Restrictive

Business Practices Tel: +260 977 872 733 n.fulaza@ccpc.org.zm



Brian Lingela
Director, Consumer Protection
Tel: +260 977 745 720

b.lingela@ccpc.org.zm



Maureen Mwanza

Director, Legal and Corporate
Affairs
Tel: +260 973 709 650
m.mwanza@ccpc.org.zm

Beene Sivumbwa

Director, Human Resource and Administration Tel: +260 977 718 363



Vestus Chungu

Director, Finance Tel: +260 977 748 950 v.chungu@ccpc.org.zm

Naomi Banda Nguni

Manager, Internal Audit Tel: +260 977 693266 n.nguni@ccpc.org.zm

Marian Mwalimu Mulenga

Manager, Legal and Corporate Affairs Tel: +260 0977 342209 m.mwalimu@ccpc.org.zm

Eunice Hamavhwa

Chief investigator, Consumer Protection (Southern region) Tel: +260963 755333 e.hamavhwa@ccpc.org.zm

Shakayobo Shandavu

Manager, Finance Tel: +260 979519160 s.shandavu@ccpc.org.zm

Patrick Chengo

Chief Investigator, Mergers and Monopolies Tel: + 260 971778155 p.chengo@ccpc.org.zm

Parret Muteto

Chief Analyst, Research and Education Tel: +260 966449681 p.muteto@ccpc.org.zm

Masautso Phiri

Chief Investigator, Consumer Protection (Northern region) Tel: +260 977201042 m.phiri@ccpc.org.zm

Questions and answers

How many economists do you employ?

There are 31 economists (investigators) employed at the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (the Commission).

Do you have a chief economist?

Yes. The chief economist (chief analyst) heads the Economics Unit (Research and Education Unit).

To whom does the chief economist report?

The chief economist (chief analyst) reports to the executive director.

Does the chief economist have the power to hire his or her own staff?

No. The staff reporting to the chief economist (chief analyst) are employed in the same manner as any other employee of the Commission.

How many of your economists have a PhD in industrial economics?

None.

Does the agency include a Specialist Economist on every case team? If not, why not?

Yes. The Office of the Chief Economist (Chief Analyst) offers technical and specialised opinions and advice on cases. This is usually done in bi-weekly meetings with investigators. However, any investigator can also seek the advice of the Office of the Chief Economist whenever need arises. It should also be noted that the investigator is also an economist specialised in investigations.

Is the chief economist a second pair of eyes' during cases – is it one of the agency's checks and balances? If not, why not?

Yes, the Office of the Chief Economist provides specialised opinions and advice during cases. It is therefore a second pair of eyes in this sense.

How much economic work is outsourced? What type of work is outsourced?

Specific professional advice on particular cases is outsourced from industry experts, where need arises.