

£1.2 billion class action against Royal Mail on behalf of purchasers of bulk mail services certified to proceed to trial

London, 4 March 2025: The Competition Appeal Tribunal (“CAT”) ruled today that a Collective Proceedings Order should be made in respect of the claim brought by Bulk Mail Claim Ltd (“BMCL”) against International Distribution Services Plc (“Royal Mail”).

Under the UK's competition regime, a person wishing to bring a class action must first secure approval from the CAT. The CAT gave its approval today, which means that BMCL's claim against Royal Mail can now proceed to trial.

The claim follows on from Ofcom's finding in 2018 that Royal Mail engaged in conduct that affected competition in the market for the delivery of bulk mail and abused its dominant position, in breach of EU and UK law.

In summary, the claim alleges that Royal Mail's anti-competitive behaviour had the effect of cutting off competition for bulk mail delivery services from 2014 onwards, with the result that senders of bulk mail (such as NHS Trusts, retailers, charities, local authorities, banks, utility companies, advertisers and publishers) were overcharged throughout this period.

The claim, brought on behalf of an estimated 290,000 bulk mail customers, seeks to achieve compensation for this overcharge.

All affected purchasers of bulk mail services will automatically be represented, and therefore do not need to take any steps to join the action. Class members can however choose to opt out if they wish.

Bulk Mail Claim Limited will be issuing a formal notice of the Collective Proceedings Order shortly.

Andrew Wanambwa, partner at Lewis Silkin representing Bulk Mail Claim Ltd, said:

“Royal Mail's abuse of its dominant position in the bulk mail market resulted in the overcharging of hundreds of thousands of bulk mail customers – including local authorities, charities and small businesses. The granting of a Collective Proceedings Order by the Tribunal means that this claim can now proceed to trial and we are one step closer to securing compensation for those affected.”

Further information about the claim can be found at www.bulkmailclaim.co.uk.

Class members are encouraged to register their interest in the claim here: www.bulkmailclaim.co.uk

Ends

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Notes to editorsThe Claimant:

- To find out more information about the Bulk Mail Claim, please visit the Bulk Mail Claim website at www.bulkmailclaim.com.



Press Release
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- Bulk Mail Claim Limited is a company specifically formed for the purpose of bringing the proposed claim against Royal Mail. Mr Robin Aaronson, the company's sole director and member, was previously a member of the Competition Commission and PostComm.
- Bulk Mail Claim Limited is working with a specialist litigation funder to bring the claim.

Background and timeline:

- In 2018, an Ofcom investigation found that during 2014 Royal Mail engaged in conduct that affected competition in the market for the delivery of bulk mail and had abused its dominant position, in breach of EU and UK law. Ofcom fined Royal Mail £50m. A copy of Ofcom's decision can be found [here](#).
- [2019](#), Ofcom's decision was upheld by the Competition Appeal Tribunal.
- [2021](#), Royal Mail's appeal was rejected by the Court of Appeal.
- [2022](#), Royal Mail's subsequent request for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court was refused.
- 29 May 2024, Bulk Mail Claim Limited filed its claim with the Competition Appeal Tribunal.
- [20 June 2024](#), Bulk Mail Claim Limited served International Distribution Services Limited (formerly Royal Mail plc) ("Royal Mail") with an £878m collective action claim relating to its anti-competitive behaviour in the "bulk mail" market.
- 12 September 2024, the Competition Appeal Tribunal held a Case Management Conference to agree the directions and timetabling for the proposed claim.
- 3 to 4 March 2025, Collective Proceedings Order hearing before the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

The proposed claim is for damages resulting from Royal Mail's breach of competition law.

Legal team:

- Bulk Mail Claim Limited is assisted by Lewis Silkin LLP, a leading law firm with a wealth of expertise in complex litigation, and an experienced team of specialist competition law barristers from Monckton Chambers.
- The Lewis Silkin team is led by [Andrew Wanambwa](#) (Partner).