



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital,
Culture, Media and Sport
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms
enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

Darren Jones MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MC2021/08131/DC

22nd April 2021

Thank you for your letter on 19 April to the Secretary of State of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy regarding my decision to issue a Public Interest Intervention Notice (PIIN) in relation to the acquisition of ARM by NVIDIA. I am responding as the Minister responsible for this decision.

First, let me address your question regarding the applicability of the National Security and Investment Bill in relation to this transaction. The process for further scrutinising this transaction falls under the existing powers afforded to Ministers under the Enterprise Act 2002. As you will be aware, the National Security and Investment Bill has not yet completed its passage through Parliament and as such its provisions will not come into force until later this year. Once the Bill has commenced, subject to successfully achieving Royal Assent, the national security powers in the Enterprise Act 2002 will be repealed.

While the Bill does provide that its powers can be used in relation to 'trigger events' that occurred at any time after the Bill was introduced into Parliament in November 2020, Ministers are not able to exercise these powers until the Bill has been passed and commenced. Therefore, I have exercised my powers under the Enterprise Act 2002 to further investigate this important transaction.

Second, with regard to the public interest considerations in relation to the transaction, the decision to issue the Public Interest Intervention Notice has now started the phase one process and the Competition and Markets Authority will consult to gather representations on the public interest grounds of the transaction. As such, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further on those matters at this stage. It should be noted though that semiconductors are fundamental to current and future technologies – from artificial intelligence and quantum computing to 5G. They also underpin the UK's critical national infrastructure and are found in defence and national security related technologies.

I hope that you find this response will be useful. I have placed a copy of this letter in the House of Commons Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'O. Dowden', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport