



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business,  
Energy & Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Darren Jones MP  
Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial  
Strategy Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [enquiries@beis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@beis.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

18 August 2021

**PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF ULTRA ELECTRONICS  
HOLDINGS PLC BY COBHAM ULTRA ACQUISITIONS LIMITED**

Dear Darren,

The Government has been examining the proposed takeover of Ultra Electronic Holdings plc (Ultra) by Cobham Ultra Acquisition Limited (Cobham).

As you know, the Enterprise Act 2002 provides me with powers to intervene in mergers and takeovers on public interest grounds, including national security.

This includes an intervention where I have reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is or may be the case that the takeover, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation and I believe that it is or may be the case that a public interest consideration is relevant to a consideration of that relevant merger situation.

I have now issued a public interest intervention notice under the Act in respect of this acquisition, asking the Competition and Markets Authority to carry out a phase one investigation and report to me by 23:59 on 18 January 2022. I have also made a pre-emptive action order under the Act to prevent Ultra from disclosing to Cobham any details relating to the provision of goods or services to the UK Government, in order to prevent the parties taking any steps which could pre-empt remedies that might be needed to mitigate risks to national security.

I have also written to the Secretary of State of Defence informing them of my decision and will write again following the conclusion of the CMA investigation.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP**  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy