

Media Release

16 October 2015

Competition Commission amends Terms of Reference and administrative timetable for the completion of the Healthcare Market Inquiry

Today, 16 October 2015, the Commission published, in the government gazette, the amended Terms of Reference (ToR) for the completion of the market inquiry into private healthcare. The Commission has also published a revised administrative timetable on its website, in line with the amended ToR.

The Inquiry is currently in its information assessment and analytical phases. Following the submissions and responses received, the Inquiry sent out further information requests to over 160 stakeholders in the private healthcare sector. This was to allow the team to conduct detailed inquiries into the potential healthcare access and competition concerns highlighted in submissions and the Statement of Issues (Sol).

The Inquiry has to date received large volumes of data and information from stakeholders and the team has spent significant time meticulously analysing the data and information. However, in light of the extent of this Inquiry and delays experienced in accessing information from certain stakeholders, the Commission has decided to amend the completion date. In terms of the amendment, the final Inquiry report, which may include recommendations, will be completed by 15 December 2016. The scope of the Inquiry remains unchanged.

The new administrative timetable indicates that public hearings will commence on 01 February 2016 and will extend to 31 May 2016. The Inquiry intends to publish further details on the venues and subject matter of such public hearings in due course.

Further details regarding the revised administrative phases are available on the Commission's website: <http://www.compcom.co.za/healthcare-inquiry/>

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