



Case No: 1689/7/7/24

IN THE COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL

B E T W E E N:

CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION

Applicant / Proposed Class Representative

- and -

(1) APPLE INC.

(2) APPLE DISTRIBUTION INTERNATIONAL LTD

(3) APPLE EUROPE LIMITED

(4) APPLE RETAIL UK LIMITED

Respondents / Proposed Defendants

DIRECTIONS ORDER

UPON reading the application by the Proposed Class Representative (“**PCR**”) for a Collective Proceedings Order pursuant to section 47B of the Competition Act 1998 and Rule 75 of the Competition Appeal Tribunal Rules 2015 (the “**Tribunal Rules**”) filed on 8 November 2024 (the “**CPO Application**”)

IT IS ORDERED BY CONSENT THAT:

1. The Case Management Conference listed for 22 May 2025 is vacated.

Forum

2. Pursuant to Rules 18, 52 and 74 of the Tribunal Rules, these collective proceedings shall be treated, for all purposes, as proceedings in England and Wales.

Confidentiality

3. The parties are to liaise and if so advised agree terms of a confidentiality ring and if so agreed shall file an agreed draft order with the Tribunal by no later than **4pm on 30 May 2025**. In the event that the parties cannot reach agreement, they shall file a composite draft showing the areas of agreement and disagreement for the Tribunal to determine on the papers.

Publicity

4. The PCR shall publicise the CPO Application by no later than **4pm on 6 June 2025**, according to the proposal set out in paragraph 7 of the Notice and Administration Plan that is annexed to the Litigation Plan exhibited to the First Witness Statement of Charmian Averty.
5. The PCR shall publicise by no later than **4pm on 6 June 2025**, in accordance with paragraphs 4, 9 and 10 of this Order, the right under Rule 76(10)(c) of persons with an interest to object to the CPO Application or the authorisation of the PCR.
6. The PCR shall publicise by no later than **4pm on 6 June 2025**, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 9 of this Order, the right under Rule 79(5) of members of the proposed class to make an application to the Tribunal for permission to make submissions at the hearing of the CPO Application.

Responses and Replies to the CPO Application

7. The Proposed Defendants are to file and serve their Response to the CPO Application, together with any accompanying factual and expert evidence, and any application made pursuant to rule 79(4) of the Tribunal Rules, by no later than **4pm on 8 August 2025**.

8. The PCR is to file and serve any Reply (if so advised) to the Proposed Defendants' Response to the CPO Application, together with any accompanying factual and expert evidence, and any response to any application made pursuant to rule 79(4) of the Tribunal Rules, by no later than **4pm on 25 September 2025**.

Objections to the CPO Application and application for permission to make observations

9. Any person with an interest (including any member of the proposed class) may object to the CPO Application or the authorisation of the PCR by writing to the Tribunal stating their reasons for objecting by no later than **4pm on 22 July 2025**. Any member of the proposed class may also seek permission to make oral observations at the CPO Application hearing, by making an application for such permission, with reasons, as part of his/her written objections.
10. Any third party with a legitimate interest (who is not a member of the proposed class) who seeks permission to make written and/or oral observations at the CPO Application hearing is to make such application, supported by reasons, to the Tribunal by no later than **4pm on 22 July 2025**.

CPO Application hearing

11. Any strike-out/summary judgment application shall be case managed alongside, listed and heard at the same hearing as the CPO Application.
12. The hearing of the CPO Application is listed for two days commencing on **19 November 2025**, with **21 November 2025** held in reserve.
13. The parties are to file and exchange skeleton arguments by **4pm on 12 November 2025**, in accordance with the Tribunal's Guide and Practice Direction 1/2021 of 25 February 2021.
14. The parties shall seek to agree the hearing and authorities bundles in accordance with the Tribunal's Guide and Practice Direction 1/2025 of 17 March 2025. The PCR shall file an electronic version and five hard copies of the agreed hearing bundle by **4pm** on

5 November 2025 and shall file an electronic version of the agreed authorities bundle by **4pm** on **12 November 2025**.

15. By agreement the parties may vary without further order any deadline in this Order for a period or periods of up to 28 days in total without reference to the Tribunal provided that they inform the Tribunal of such agreement in advance of the expiry of the relevant deadline and the extension does not affect the date of the CPO Application hearing.

General

16. Costs in the case.

17. There shall be liberty to apply.

The Honourable Mr Justice Waksman
Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal

Made: 15 May 2025
Drawn: 15 May 2025