



IN THE COMPETITION
APPEAL TRIBUNAL

Case No: 1696/7/7/24

B E T W E E N :

DR MARIA LUISA STASI

Applicant/
Proposed Representative

-and-

(1) MICROSOFT CORPORATION

(a company incorporated under the laws of Washington State, USA)

(2) MICROSOFT LIMITED

(a company incorporated under the laws of England & Wales)

(3) MICROSOFT IRELAND OPERATIONS LIMITED

(a company incorporated under the laws of Ireland)

Respondents/
Proposed Defendants

DIRECTIONS ORDER

UPON the Proposed Class Representative's (the "**PCR**") application dated 3 December 2024 for a Collective Proceedings Order (the "**CPO Application**") pursuant to section 47B of the Competition Act 1998 and Rule 75 of the Competition Appeal Tribunal Rules 2015 (the "**Tribunal Rules**").

IT IS ORDERED BY CONSENT THAT:

- (1) The Case Management Conference listed for 10 June 2025 is vacated.

Forum

- (2) The collective proceedings shall be treated as taking place in England and Wales.

Publicity

- (3) Within one week of 3 June 2025 the PCR shall publicise the CPO Application Notice in accordance with the proposal set out in section 38 of the Litigation Plan that is exhibited to the First Witness Statement of Maria Luisa Stasi at MLS.1.2 (“**Litigation Plan**”); and at section 6.A of the Notice and Administration Plan, that is appended to the Litigation Plan at Appendix 1.
- (4) In order to ensure that Proposed Class and Proposed Sub-Class members are able to exercise their rights under Rule 76(10)(c) and Rule 79(5) of the Tribunal Rules to register any objections to the CPO Application and to apply to make submissions either in writing or orally at the hearing of the CPO Application, the CPO Application Notice will include the following information:
- a. the fact of the CPO Application;
 - b. the parameters of the Proposed Class and the Proposed Sub-Class;
 - c. the deadline for objections to the CPO Application;
 - d. the right of members of the Proposed Class and the Proposed Sub-Class to apply to the Tribunal to make oral submissions at the hearing of the CPO Application;
and
 - e. the CPO Application hearing date.

Responses and replies to the CPO Application

- (5) The Proposed Defendants shall file and serve their response to the CPO Application, together with any factual and/or economic expert evidence, by 4pm on 25 July 2025.

- (6) The PCR shall file and serve any reply to the Proposed Defendants' response, together with any factual and/or economic expert evidence (if so advised) by 4pm on 10 October 2025.

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

- (7) Any person with an interest (including any member of the Proposed Class or the Proposed Sub-Class) may object to the CPO Application or the authorisation of the Proposed Class Representative by writing to the Tribunal stating their reasons for objecting by 4pm on 11 September 2025. Any member of the Proposed Class or the proposed Sub-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.
- (8) Any third party with a legitimate interest (who is not a member of the Proposed Class or Proposed Sub-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 4pm on 11 September 2025.

Skeleton arguments and bundles

- (9) The PCR shall file an electronic version and three hard copies of the agreed hearing bundle by 4pm on 20 November 2025.
- (10) The parties shall file and serve skeleton arguments cross referenced to the hearing bundle by 4pm on 27 November 2025.
- (11) The PCR shall file an electronic version and three hard copies of the agreed authorities bundle by 4pm on 4 December 2025.

CPO Application hearing

- (12) The hearing of the CPO Application be listed to be heard on 11 December 2025 (with the first day commencing at 10am unless the parties are notified by the Tribunal of a later start time), with a time estimate of 1 day, with a further 1 day in reserve on 12 December 2025.

Costs

(13) Costs in the case.

General

(14) There be liberty to apply.

(15) By agreement the parties may vary without further order any deadline in paragraphs 3, 5, and 6 of this Order for a period or periods of up to 14 days in total 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 dates of any listed hearings.

The Honourable Mr Justice Leech
Chair of the Competition Appeal Tribunal

Made: 3 June 2025
Drawn: 3 June 2025