



Issue: 4-16 October 1, 2016



FTCNewsLine is an on-line quarterly newsletter of the **FAIR TRADING COMMISSION** that contains information on competition matters dealt with by the Fair Trading Commission as well as other competition agencies from around the world. The aim is to provide readers with insights into some of the matters that are prosecuted in other jurisdictions; and to assist businesses and consumers in better identifying issues that may pose competition concerns.

Competition legislation is specific to each jurisdiction and activities that are prohibited in one jurisdiction are not necessarily prohibited in other jurisdictions. For information on the prohibitions under the Jamaica's competition legislation, the **FAIR COMPETITION ACT (FCA)**, please visit our website at www.jftc.gov.jm.

In this Issue we feature issues related to the period July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

FTC Assesses Consumer's Choice of Bundles in the Telecommunications Market

With the issuing of a mobile spectrum license to Symbiote Investments Limited in May 2016, the Telecommunication industry's collective expectation is that the additional player further intensifies an increasingly competitive environment where the main players court tech-savvy subscribers with a variety of bundled and unbundled telecommunication products such as Data (Internet), Subscriber Television (Cable TV), mobile and fixed-line voice services.

The FTC has concluded its review of recent changes to the suite of bundled telecommunication packages available to subscriber. The main objective of the review was to assess how subscribers are likely being impacted in this dynamic industry. The main finding is that the observed changes have an uncertain impact on the welfare of subscribers. The typical subscriber would desire more Cable TV channels, faster connection speeds to the Internet and more voice minutes. The impact on an individual subscriber is uncertain at this point because each subscriber faces a trade-off between more Cable TV options on one hand, and faster connection speed and voice minutes on the other hand.

In particular, packages offering more Cable TV channels are typically the packages with the slower connection speeds and fewer voice minutes. As the industry continues to evolve and mature, the FTC has no doubt that on aggregate, subscribers will ultimately benefit from competition in the telecommunication industry

Appointment of Commissioners

Dr. Derrick McKoy, an Attorney-at-Law, has been appointed Chairman of the Fair Trading Commission by the Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries effective June 6, 2016. Dr. McKoy previously served as Chairman for the period 2008-2011. The other Commissioners appointed are: Mr. Stuart Andrade, Finance Specialist, Mr. Robert Collie,

Attorney-at-Law and Dr. Lloyd Waller, Methodologist/Governance and Development Specialist for the period June 6, 2016 to June 5, 2018.

Complaints Investigated: April 1 2016- September 30, 2016

For the first half of the 2016/2017 Financial Year, the FTC investigated 224 complaints. This comprises 181 cases that were unresolved at the end of the previous Financial Year; and 43 cases which were received during April to September 2016. At the end of the period, 52 cases were resolved.

Of the 224 cases investigated, 177 concerned allegations of misleading representation; while 32 complaints alleged anticompetitive conduct. There were three requests for opinion; one as sale above advertised price; and two as tied selling. Nine complaints were based on issues outside the purview of the Fair Competition Act and were therefore forwarded to relevant agencies for consumer redress.