



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 January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2019.

FTC receives training in competition advocacy

The Staff benefited from a workshop in competition advocacy conducted by experts from the Laboratory of Economics, Antitrust and Regulation (Lear), which is a specialized economic consultancy firm, that offers a wide range of services in the field of competition policy and regulation. The training forms part of a consultancy service that Lear has been providing to the FTC for the project “Increasing the Effectiveness of Competition Advocacy in Jamaica.”

Competition advocacy refers to all non-enforcement activities of a competition authority that are geared towards the promotion of competition. These include market studies, public education seminars and cooperation with other public bodies.

Using information from the consultancy, the FTC will conduct a pilot initiative which involves an ex post evaluation of the FTC's decision with respect to the 2011 acquisition by Digicel Jamaica Limited (Digicel) of Oceanic Digital Jamaica Limited (Claro). Additionally, the FTC will undertake a series of one-on-one discussions with government agencies and regulators whose responsibilities may have an effect on competition or the structure of the market(s) for which they have oversight.

Study on the commercial banking sector in Jamaica

Work on the study of the space within which commercial banks operate in Jamaica continued with market players such as commercial banks, credit unions, building societies and micro-finance institutions submitting information and data that is specific to their respective operations. The study is a part of a consultancy which Menns SPRL from Belgium will complete in July 2019.

The study will help policy makers understand the reasons for the low level of financial intermediation in Jamaica and provide insights into possible ways to use this information to unlock economic growth. Information from the study will also guide policy recommendations towards determining whether to create discrete or more tailored regulation for different classes of market players in the banking and financial sectors.

Complaints investigated during Financial Year 2018/2019

Over the period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, the FTC investigated 136 complaints for breaches of the FCA. This comprises 96 cases that were unresolved at the end of the previous financial year and 40 cases which were received during FY 2018/2019. Of the 40 complaints received, 52.5% concerned matters in the automobile and telecommunications sectors while the remaining 47.5% of complaints were distributed across 13 industries. The complaints regarding the telecommunications sector covered matters including allegations of failure of suppliers to provide advertised services. For the automobile sector, the complaints covered matters including misleading representation regarding vehicle mileage and model year. Forty-nine cases were resolved.

In addition to the complaints, the FTC responded to 74 requests for information from the public. Also, the FTC conducted sector studies on the aspects of finance and banking, port services, airline services as well as the informal economy in general.