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**Media Release
For Immediate Release
21 November 2017**

REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE HEALTH MARKET INQUIRY

Today the Health Market Inquiry published a Notice advising all stakeholders of amendments to the Revised Administrative Timetable of 24 August 2017 and of delays in the publication of the Provisional Report due to be published by 30 November 2017.

Subsequent to the 24 August 2017 Notice, stakeholders comprising primarily the three large hospital groups (Netcare Limited, Mediclinic SA and Life Healthcare), raised objections on grounds of procedural fairness to the publication of the Provisional Report by 30 November 2017.

Certain stakeholders have further challenged KPMG's objectivity relating to work performed on the profitability analyses of the three largest hospital groups and medical scheme administrators. The HMI has consulted with the stakeholders concerned, its own data experts and has sought external legal advice on the issues raised.

Following these engagements and consultations, the HMI Panel has taken the following decisions in the interests of progressing the inquiry and avoiding protracted litigation:

1. The HMI will grant further access to the confidential data and underlying information to the stakeholders that have requested such access.
2. In respect of the profitability analyses, the HMI will provide affected stakeholders access to KPMG in order for their experts to verify information and understand the basis upon which KPMG made its conclusions.
3. The HMI will publish eight analytical reports by 8 December 2017, for public comment by 31 January 2018.
4. The HMI will not publish the Provisional Report on 30 November 2017.

The HMI will aim to publish the Provisional Report by 30 April 2018 and subsequently the Final Report by 31 August 2018. These revised dates will be published in the Government Gazette in due course. The above Notice is attached hereto and is also available on the Competition Commission website.

The HMI is aware of the public interest in the outcome of this Inquiry and regrets the further delay in the publication of its Provisional Report. The Panel has taken the steps set out above in order to reassure stakeholders of the integrity of the process and to prevent any further delay that may result from legal disputes.

The Panel further wishes to thank all stakeholders who have constructively engaged with HMI and have contributed to the significant progress made to date.

[ENDS]

Issued by:

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