

[Piper PA-46-350P \(MODIFIED\), G-HYZA, Anniversary Statement](#)

News story

Piper PA-46-350P (MODIFIED), G-HYZA, near Cranfield Airport on 29 April 2021.



This statement provides an update on the AAIB investigation into an accident involving a Piper PA-46-350P (MODIFIED), registration G-HYZA, near Cranfield Airport on 29 April 2021.

G-HYZA was an electrically powered aircraft which was undertaking experimental flight tests, under E Conditions, Civil Aviation Publication 1220, when power to the electrical motors was lost. The loss of power occurred when, as part of the test procedure, the battery was selected OFF leaving the electrical motors powered by the hydrogen fuel cell.

A forced landing was carried out close to Cranfield Airport during which the aircraft was severely damaged. The draft report has been disseminated for consultation. Publication of the report is expected mid 2022.

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[CMA publishes second state of competition report](#)

Effective competition helps make sure shoppers and households get a fair deal when buying goods and services. This is especially important at a time when the UK is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and facing a rising cost of living.

Recognising the importance of competition, the [Chancellor and the Business Secretary asked](#) the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to assess the state of competition in the UK economy.

This is the second report of its kind that the CMA has produced.

Building on its [first report](#), the CMA has improved the techniques it uses to measure indicators of competition like market concentration, firms' profitability and markups, and market entry and exit levels.

Key findings include:

- The level to which markets are dominated by a limited number of companies – their concentration – remains higher than it was before the financial crisis of 2008.
- Concentration is higher when 'common ownership', where competing firms are owned by the same companies, is factored in but lower when accounting for international trade.
- Lower income households are more likely to consume goods and services produced in more concentrated markets. This is because a higher proportion of their income is spent on essential services, like gas and water, which tend to be produced by a limited number of companies.
- Average markups – the amount added to the cost price of goods to cover overheads and profit – have increased since 2008, from just over 20% to about 35%, with the increase in markup being higher for the 10% most profitable firms.
- Evidence suggests that the largest and most profitable firms are able to sustain their strong position for longer than they used to, with the likelihood of the largest firms in an industry remaining the largest firms increasing over the last 20 years.
- Digital markets have huge potential to improve our lives and living standards and to play an important role in the post-pandemic recovery. But to deliver those benefits, they need to stay competitive. Weak competition in digital markets, like search engines, mobile ecosystems and social media, risks reducing innovation and choice, and leading to people giving up more personal data than they would like.

In its report, the CMA also analyses surveys which asked people about their direct experience of problems with goods and services they purchased. The [BEIS Consumer Protection Study 2022](#) estimates that issues with purchased goods and services cost UK consumers £54.2 billion in the year to April 2021, with two-fifths of issues arising from just four sectors: renting services, vehicle maintenance and repair, second-hand vehicles, and internet provision. Consumers reported that around £7.7 billion of this cost (14% of the total) was caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic was also felt to have played a large part in the majority of issues people experienced with services provided by airlines and package holidays and tours sectors.

Mike Walker, Chief Economic Adviser at the CMA, said:

Our State of Competition report shows a worrying combination of trends. We are seeing markets getting more concentrated, companies enjoying higher mark-ups and the biggest firms maintaining their leading positions for longer. The fact that all these indicators are pointing in the same direction provides a warning sign about the state of competition in the UK.

What's more, we've found that the poorest households are likely to suffer the effects of these changes the most – at the very time when they are already being hit by sharp rises in the cost of essential items.

We will use our findings to direct our work to keep markets competitive and protect consumers at this crucial time.

The CMA's report is informed by its knowledge of markets and work enforcing consumer and competition law. It has also included insights of outside experts, academic advisors and other parts of government.

For more information, and to read the report, visit the [State of UK Competition report page](#).

For media enquiries, contact the CMA press office on 020 3738 6460 or press@cma.gov.uk.

1. The CMA is extremely grateful for the assistance of Steve Davies, professor of economics at the University of East Anglia and Dr Anthony Savagar, associate professor in economics at the University of Kent in advising on the report structure, reviewing the methodology used and providing critical review of the final report.

[Lieutenant General Sir James Hockenhull appointed new Commander United Kingdom Strategic Command](#)

News story

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has confirmed that Her Majesty The Queen has approved the new appointment of Commander United Kingdom Strategic Command.



Lieutenant General Sir James Hockenhull KBE is to be appointed Commander United Kingdom Strategic Command and Aide-de-Camp General to Her Majesty, in the rank of General, in succession to General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen, in May 2022.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

I am delighted to congratulate General Sir James Hockenhull on his well-deserved promotion and appointment as Commander United Kingdom Strategic Command.

As the current Chief of Defence Intelligence, General Jim has had an extraordinary impact on Defence, including vital work most recently in supporting the crisis in Ukraine, declassifying Defence Intelligence products to help inform the public in a way that we have not seen before. I know he will bring his significant skills and experience to bear in his new role.

Defence's joint capability will be in excellent hands under General Jim's leadership. He takes up his appointment at a crucial moment in the UK Strategic Command transition to becoming the Defence capability integrator as laid out in the Integrated Review and Defence Command Paper. I wish him well in this endeavour.

General Sir Patrick Sanders, said:

I am very pleased to welcome Lieutenant General Sir James Hockenhull as the next Commander UK Strategic Command. As Chief of Defence Intelligence, he brings a wealth of operational experience and joint capability to the role. He will continue the development of UK Strategic Command to ensure that Defence can meet future threats and deliver for the Nation.

We live in uncertain times, and I am delighted to be working with Sir James in my new role as Chief of the General Staff to ensure that Defence is a global force delivering for Global Britain.

Lieutenant General Sir James Hockenhull KBE, said:

I am deeply honoured to be appointed Commander of UK Strategic Command. We must be prepared to think differently and deliver real change at pace to address the fast changing global security environment.

It has been a privilege to lead Defence Intelligence, working with some of the most capable people in Defence together with our cross government partners and allies. I am extremely proud to take up the challenge of leading Strategic Command on its journey to becoming Defence's Integrator.

[A biography of Lieutenant General Sir James Hockenhull.](#)

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[UK dispatches war crimes experts to help Ukraine with investigations](#)

Press release

Foreign Secretary announces that the UK will deploy a team of war crimes experts to support Ukraine with investigations into Russian atrocities



- UK experts will deploy to support the Ukrainian Government in gathering evidence and prosecuting war crimes.
- This follows reports of sexual violence by Russian forces in Ukraine.
- Comes as the Foreign Secretary meets President of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for talks today.

The UK will deploy a team of war crimes experts to support Ukraine with investigations into Russian atrocities, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has announced.

The specialist team will assist the Ukrainian Government as they gather evidence and prosecute war crimes and will include experts in conflict-related sexual violence.

They will arrive in Poland in early May and meet international partners, NGOs, refugees and the Ukrainian government to scope out the assistance they can provide.

It comes as the Foreign Secretary travels to The Hague today for talks with ICC Court President, Judge Piotr Hofmanski, at the International Criminal Court, where she will reaffirm the UK's full support for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes and the use of sexual violence not just in the conflict in Ukraine but around the world.

The visit follows Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab's visit to The Hague last month to offer practical support to the court for investigating and prosecuting and the report produced under the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Moscow Mechanism, which found credible evidence of torture, rape, the killing of civilians and the forced deportation of more than half a million people in Ukraine.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

Russia has brought barbarity to Ukraine and committed vile atrocities, including against women. British expertise will help uncover the truth and hold Putin's regime to account for its actions. Justice will be done.

While in The Hague, the Foreign Secretary will see her Dutch counterpart Wopke Hoekstra for talks on working together with the Netherlands on holding Russia to account, including their work through the Joint Expeditionary Force and NATO.

Background

- The UK is a leading country donor to the crisis, committing nearly £400 million (£394 million) of aid for urgent economic and humanitarian support since the invasion.
- This includes a £220 million package for aid agencies on the ground to provide medical supplies and basic necessities, saving lives and protecting vulnerable people. So far the UK has sent a rapid donation of food supplies following a request from the government, committed to donating up to 42 ambulances to help bring vital lifesaving care, sent more than 5 million medical items and supported UK-Med to carry out vital lifesaving work in Ukraine.
- The UK supports the work of the International Criminal Court and is providing £1 million of additional funding to help the ICC to have an improved system to store evidence submitted in relation to the OTP's investigations.
- The UK was part of the coalition that created of the Commission of Inquiry at the Human Rights Council, to ensure all allegations of

atrocious crimes are thoroughly investigated. We help support such work through our £3m annual funding to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

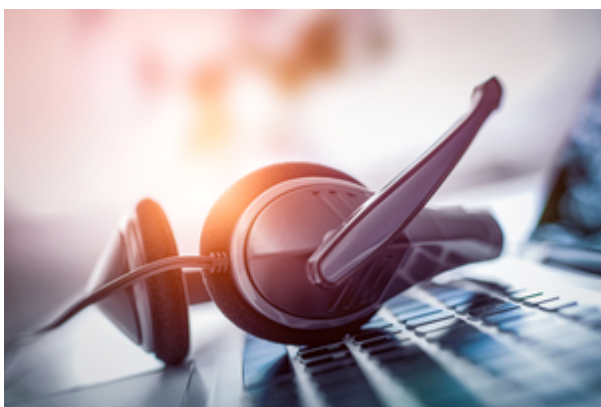
- The UK has launched a £10 million Civil Society Fund to support organisations in Ukraine, including those helping people affected by conflict-related sexual violence. This follows the launch of the Murad Code earlier this month that provides guidelines for how to properly interview survivors of sexual violence.
- The UK will host an international conference 28 – 30 November 2022 to drive global action to tackle sexual violence around the world and mark 10 years since the launch of the UK's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative.

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[CMA finds competition concerns in merger of emergency service software suppliers](#)

Press release

NEC Software Solutions' purchase of SSS raises competition concerns in the supply of vital software to emergency services and transport customers.



NEC and SSS are 2 of a small number of suppliers that supply essential software solutions to emergency service providers (including police forces, fire and rescue services and ambulance trusts) as well as transport service providers (such as TfL and rail operators).

These include:

- ‘integrated communication and control services’ (ICCS) used by control room personnel in day-to-day duties such as receiving and making urgent phone calls to communicate with emergency response staff.
- specialised software (referred to as ‘Duties’) to police forces to enable the planning and scheduling of shifts. Supply of this software requires significant expertise and experience.
- records management systems (RMS) which enable the police to record and manage case-related information such as the processing of people in custody and case file management for prosecutions.

The CMA found that for each of these 3 services, the market is relatively concentrated, with NEC and SSS generally being 2 of only 3 suppliers with a large established customer base.

The CMA considered the impact of the merger on these services and found that the deal gives rise to competition concerns with regard to all 3 software products.

David Stewart, Executive Director, Mergers and Markets, said:

We all rely on our emergency services, and they rely in turn on essential services such as those provided by these 2 companies. The CMA’s role is to ensure this deal does not undermine competition in this market, so police, fire and ambulance services across the UK have a choice of supplier and can secure the most reliable and innovative services available.

Ultimately the software NEC and SSS provide is paid for by the taxpayer and we can’t risk higher prices or a lower standard of service.

It is now up to NEC to provide us with undertakings to address our concerns.

To address these concerns, the CMA has given NEC until 9 May 2022 to offer an undertaking that might be accepted.

If no undertaking is offered that addresses the CMA’s concerns, then the deal will be referred to a more in-depth investigation.

More information is on the [NEC/Capita case page](#).

1. SSS refers to SSS Public Safety Limited (formerly Capita (SSS) Limited) and Secure Solutions USA LLC (formerly Capita Software (US) LLC).
2. In the ICCS market, the third established player is Frequentis. In the Duties market, the third player is Crown and, to a lesser extent, Totalmobile also competes with NEC and SSS. In the RMS market, the third established player is Niche.
3. All media enquiries should be directed to the CMA press office by email on press@cma.gov.uk, or by phone on 020 3738 6460.

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