

Gareth Shier

Principal

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Languages: English



Expertise

- Antitrust
- Mergers
- Public Policy and Impact Assessment
- Regulation

Sectors

- Digital
- Telecoms, Media and Technology

Profile

Gareth specialises in the economics of competition and public policy within digital, telecoms and media markets. He has over ten years of experience advising a wide range of international clients, industry bodies and authorities. His competition experience includes numerous Phase I and Phase II merger proceedings, abuse of dominance cases and collusive agreement cases before both the European Commission and national competition authorities.

His experience in telecoms and media includes advising clients, industry bodies and the Commission on fixed-mobile convergence mergers, next-generation access pricing, policy impact assessments, pay-TV content licencing, and copyright issues.

Within digital, Gareth is a frequent contributor to the debate, having written and spoken on issues around copyright in the digital single market, liabilities and responsibilities for online businesses, and digital markets regulation. His recent work has focused on the forthcoming Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act and the practicalities of putting these new rules into practice.

Now based in Oxford, Gareth has previously lived and worked in London, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Selected professional experience

- Study of the Dutch fixed-line broadband market and insights from the economics literature on the impact of access regulation for KPN (2022)
- Reviewed the likely consequences for businesses and consumers of proposed amendments to the Digital Markets Act, for the Computer and Communication Industry Association (2022)
- Advised Telenet on the likely competition issues arising from its bid for Voo in Belgium (2021)
- Examined the impact of the Digital Markets Act on consumers, for the Computer and Communications Industry Association (2021)
- Examined the impact of the Digital Services Act on European business users for the trade association Allied for Startups (2020)
- Advised Liberty Global through the merger of its subsidiary UPC CH and mobile operator Sunrise Communications in Switzerland (2020)
- Advised Circle Health on local markets analysis during the CMA's review of its merger with BMI Healthcare in the UK (2020)
- Study for Facebook into the value of digital platforms to creative content producers, in the context of the Digital Single Market directive (2019)
- Examined the impact on content creation of geoblocking in the audiovisual industry, for the Motion Picture Association (2019)
- Advised Google on the unintended consequences for consumers and businesses of the proposed 'Platforms to Businesses' regulation (2018)
- Assessed the benefits derived from Android by European consumers and businesses, in a study for Google (2018)
- Advised on the risk of anticompetitive effects stemming from an information exchange by a motor industry trade body (2017)
- Prepared an assessment of the UK's PSB prominence regime for a consortium of BBC/ITV/C4/C5 for submission to Ofcom (2017)
- Advised VTR.com in Chile on an intervention into the merger of Turner Media and CDF, a leading premium sports provider (2017)
- Advised Warner Bros. in the Commission's antitrust investigation into Pay-TV movies (2015–19)
- Advised Virgin Media on its competition complaint to Ofcom pertaining to an Article 101 TFEU issue with the sale of broadcast rights (2014)
- Assessed the risk that the CMA would find competition issues in local markets, for a retail client considering a merger in the UK (2014)
- Advised Liberty Global during the Commission's Phase II review of its merger with De Vijver Media in Belgium (2014)
- Conducted an assessment of the total impact that an aeronautical telecoms network would have on the UK economy, for Inmarsat (2014)
- Assisted Liberty Global with its Form CO filing to DG Competition for its joint takeover with Discovery Communications of all3Media (2014)
- Assisted with an assessment of the impact that safe harbour laws can have on Internet intermediary liability, for a large technology client (2014)
- Advised Liberty Global during the Commission's Phase II review of its merger with Ziggo in the Netherlands (2014)

Selected publications

- Antuca, A., Mell, A. and Shier, G. (2022), 'DMA trilogy: tension in the details', EURACTIV, 10 January.
- Mell, A. and Shier, G. (2021), 'Understanding competition in digital markets: new perspectives on old practices', Competition Law Journal, 20:3, October.
- Flórez Duncan, F. and Shier, G. (2021), 'A more flexible, effects based approach is required if the DMA is to foster innovation and protect the value platforms offer', Competition Policy International, 11 July.
- Blankertz, A. and Shier, G. (2016), 'One price for all? Differentiated pricing in online markets', Competition Law Journal, 15:4, October.
- Shier, G. (2014), 'What's on the telly? The European Commission investigates pay-TV film deals', Competition Law Insight, May.
- Langus, G., Neven, D. and Shier, G. (2013), 'Assessing the economic impacts of adapting certain limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights in the EU', prepared for DG MARKT European Commission, October.
- Haydock, J., Langus, G., Lipatov, V., Neven, D. and Shier, G. (2012), 'Costing methodologies and incentives to invest in fibre', European Commission DG Information Society and Media (now DG Connect), July.

Qualifications

- MSc Economics, University College London, UK
- BSc Economics, University of Birmingham, UK