

NICHOLAS FRANCIS

Nicholas Francis is one of Reckon LLP's founding partners. He has worked as an economic consultant since 2000. Most of his professional experience is in the fields of regulation and competition economics. He has led projects for clients in the utilities sectors on the analysis of productivity and expenditure data as part of regulatory price control reviews. He has provided advice on the assessment of abuse of dominant position cases, and on the potential market impact of various publicly-funded BBC services. He has also contributed to a number of economic research projects for the European Commission.

Qualifications

University of Bristol
MSc Economics (Distinction) 2000
BSc Economics (1st Class) 1999

Career details

2004– **Reckon LLP, London**
Partner

2000–2004 **Europe Economics, London**
Consultant

Selected professional experience

Competition economics

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, England and Wales (2008–2009) *For the Cave and Walker reviews, analysis of cross subsidies in the water industry and how the introduction of new forms of competition might affect the structure of prices*
- The BBC (2006–2007) *Analysis of the potential market impact of proposed BBC high definition television channel*
- Office of Rail Regulation, Great Britain (2005–2006) *Secondment to lead economics input to competition law enforcement (EWS abuse of dominant position case)*
- Sectoral competition authority, United Kingdom (2005) *Development of an approach to the assessment of exploitative abuses under EC competition law*
- DG Enterprise, European Commission (2004–2005) *Study on path dependence, innovation and the role of competing technologies in circumventing lock-in*
- Office of Communications (Ofcom), United Kingdom (2004) *Advice on the market impact of the BBC's new digital television and radio services*
- Group of multinational companies, European Union (2004) *Analysis in preparation for potential challenges to distribution arrangements under EC competition law*
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport, United Kingdom (2003–2004) *Economics advice to Philip Graf's independent review of BBC Online*

- Independent Television Commission, United Kingdom (2003) *Advice on market definition and the role of ex ante regulation to protect competition in broadcasting*
- DG Competition, European Commission (2002) *Market definition in the media sector: economic issues*
- Group of research-based pharmaceutical companies, South Africa (2002) *Submission to the South African Competition Tribunal on distribution arrangements*
- Office of the Rail Regulator, Great Britain (2001) *Competition assessment of passenger rolling stock markets*
- Department of Health and Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, United Kingdom (2000–2001) *Empirical study of competition in the supply of branded medicines to the NHS*

Economic regulation

- Ofwat, England and Wales (2008) *Analysis of changes in water and sewerage industry unit costs, productivity and input prices (PR09 scope for efficiency studies)*
- UK Water Industry Research, United Kingdom (2007–2008) *Development of time series panel data models and tools for relative efficiency analysis*
- Health and Safety Executive, United Kingdom (2007) *Advice on the appointment of a single provider to run the new gas installer registration scheme*
- UK Water Industry Research, United Kingdom (2006–2007) *Review of techniques to estimate expenditure needs for price control reviews in the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales*
- Office of the Rail Regulator, Great Britain (2004) *Economic framework for a potential review of the structure of charges*
- Commission for Aviation Regulation, Republic of Ireland (2003–2004) *Advice on price control formulae*
- Ofwat, England and Wales (2002–2003) *Top-down analysis of the scope for efficiency improvements in the water and sewerage industries*
- Telecommunications operator, United Kingdom (2002) *Paper on the appropriate role for telecommunications regulation in the UK*
- IT- og Telestyrelsen, Denmark (2002) *Review of long-run average incremental cost (LRAIC) models*
- Telecommunications operator, United Kingdom (2002) *Advice on Competition Commission inquiry into mobile call termination charges*
- DG Information Society, European Commission (2001) *Cost structures in mobile networks and their relationship to prices*
- Office of the Rail Regulator, Great Britain (2001) *Development of compensation algorithms for permanent removal of access rights and/or protection from competition*
- Ofgem, Great Britain (2000–2001) *Top-down analysis of the scope for efficiency improvements in gas transportation*