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### **MG Rover**

The Serious Fraud Office has announced that it does not intend to begin a criminal investigation into the sale of car manufacturer, MG Rover Group, following a review of documents sent by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

A report on the circumstances surrounding the sale of the MG Rover group, which was compiled by independent inspectors appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry, was referred on to the SFO on 6th July by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Lord Mandelson, after he studied the findings. The inspectors delivered their report on 11 June 2009. MGRG, the manufacturer of Rover and MG cars, went into administration on April 8 2005.

Following the DBIS referral a small team of SFO investigators studied the report and made recommendations to the SFO's Director, Richard Alderman. He read the recommendations, read the report itself and took advice from the SFO General Counsel, Vivian Robinson, QC, and an external opinion also from eminent lawyer, Clare Montgomery QC. The Director then made the decision not to initiate a criminal investigation.

As the inspectors' report has not been made public, the SFO is unable to go into detail about the reasons for its decision.

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