



Notice of Acceptance

Acquisition of BLPT

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has decided that the proposed acquisition of Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership NHS Trust (BLPT) by one of four shortlisted bidders meets the CCP's acceptance criteria for a merger reference. That is:

- i. the proposed arrangement falls within the scope of Principle 9 of the Principles and Rules of Cooperation and Competition;
- ii. the CCP is the most appropriate body to consider this matter;
- iii. BLPT has made available the relevant and applicable information on the case to the CCP; and
- iv. the turnover threshold is satisfied. BLPT's turnover is alone in excess of £35 million and therefore the turnover of the combined entity will exceed the relevant threshold of £35 million.

As a result, the CCP is accepting this case with its investigation starting from the date of this notice, with Phase 1 to be completed by 7 September 2009 and Phase 2, if required, to be completed by 30 December 2009.

Andrew Taylor
Director, Cooperation and Competition Panel

10 July 2009