



Notice of Acceptance

Merger of NHS Richmond and Twickenham and NHS Hounslow provider services

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has decided that the proposed merger between the provider services arms of NHS Richmond and Twickenham and NHS Hounslow 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. the parties have made available the relevant and applicable information on the case to the CCP; and
- iv. the turnover threshold is satisfied as the combined entities 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 12 October 2009 and Phase 2, if required, to be completed by 4 February 2010.

Andrew Taylor
Director, Cooperation and Competition Panel

14 August 2009