



Notice of Acceptance

Merger of West Sussex Provider Services and South Downs Health NHS Trust

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has decided that the proposed merger between the provider arm of West Sussex Health and South Downs Health meets the CCP's acceptance criteria for a merger reference. That is:

- i. the proposed arrangement falls within the scope of Principle 9 and/or Principle 10 of the Principles and Rules for 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 23 December 2009 and Phase 2, if required, to be completed by 22 February 2010.

Andrew Taylor
Director, Cooperation and Competition Panel

28 October 2009