



Notice of Acceptance

Merger of NHS Portsmouth's provider services arm and NHS Southampton City's provider services arm

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has decided that the proposed merger between NHS Portsmouth's provider services arm and NHS Southampton's provider services arm 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 2 March 2010 and Phase 2, if required, to be completed by 28 June 2010.

Andrew Taylor

Director

Cooperation and Competition Panel

5 January 2009