



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT - M/18/008-CMNL /NORTH DUBLIN PUBLICATIONS

Proposed acquisition by CMNL Limited of joint control of North Dublin Publications Limited

8 February 2018

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission has today cleared the proposed transaction, whereby CMNL Limited would acquire joint control of North Dublin Publications Limited. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002, as amended (“the Act”) on 5 January 2018. Given that both CMNL Limited and North Dublin Publications Limited carry on a “media business” within the State, the proposed transaction constitutes a “media merger” for the purposes of Part 3A of the Act.

The Commission has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect subject to the provisions of section 28C(1) of the Act. The Commission will publish the reasons for its determination on its website no later than 60 working days after the date of the determination and after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

Additional Information

CMNL Limited publishes the following five paid-for regional newspapers in the State: *Anglo Celt*; *Meath Chronicle*; *Westmeath Examiner*; *Westmeath Independent*; and *Connaught Telegraph* and one free regional newspaper: *Offaly Independent*. CMNL Limited also operates the websites of each of the six regional newspapers and the website of the Celtic Media Group, www.celticmediagroup.ie. CMNL Limited supplies pre-press services to third party newspapers.

North Dublin Publications Limited is a newspaper publisher, which publishes the following three free weekly local newspapers: *Northside People (East)*; *Northside People (West)* and *Southside People*. North Dublin Publications Limited also operates two websites, www.dublinpeopleawards.com and www.dublinpeople.com.