



## MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT - M/18/089

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**Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed merger of Lakeland Dairies Co-Op Society Limited and LacPatrick Co-Operative Society Limited.**

5 March 2019

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On 5 March 2019, the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission cleared the proposed merger of Lakeland Dairies Co-Op Society Limited and LacPatrick Co-Operative Society Limited. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002, as amended, on 6 November 2018.

The Commission has formed the view that the proposed merger will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State. 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**

Lakeland Dairies Co-Op Society Limited (“Lakeland”) is a farmer-owned co-operative society. Lakeland has three operating divisions, i.e., food ingredients, food services, and agri-business. The majority of Lakeland’s food ingredients are sold abroad. Lakeland’s food services division supplies dairy products, primarily milk powders, bulk butter and casein. Lakeland also supplies dairy-based products (including UHT milk portions in pots and sticks, UHT creams, soft serve and frozen ice cream, frozen yoghurt and mini portions of butter) to international food service customers. Lakeland’s agri-business division produces and supplies animal feed products and operates two retail agri-trade stores, located at (i) Lough Egish, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, and (ii) at Richmond Street, Co. Longford.

LacPatrick Co-Operative Society Limited (“LacPatrick”) is a farmer-owned co-operative society. LacPatrick’s main business is the supply of bulk milk powder and bulk butter, the majority of its bulk milk powder and bulk butter are sold abroad. LacPatrick also produces and supplies consumer packet butter, milk and cream marketed under the *Champion* brand to Irish retailers. It also produces own brand private label packet butter, milk, cream for some supermarkets. LacPatrick operates a single retail agri-trade store at its site in Coolshannagh, Co Monaghan that sells agriculture inputs such as fertiliser, feed, and other farming equipment.