



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT - M/19/040

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed acquisition by DMG Media Limited of sole control of JPIMedia Publications Limited

10 March 2020

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (the “CCPC”) has cleared the proposed transaction whereby DMG Media Limited would acquire sole control of JPIMedia Publications Limited. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002, as amended (the “Act”), on 29 November 2019.

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

During the CCPC’s review of the proposed transaction, the CCPC had concerns that the proposed transaction may have been put into effect after the notification was submitted to the CCPC but before clearance had been given by the CCPC. The CCPC raised these concerns with the parties. On 8 January 2020, DMGT confirmed that the Notified Transaction was put into effect on 29 November 2019, i.e., following notification to the CCPC and prior to receiving clearance from the CCPC.

On 10 January 2020 the CCPC stated that by implementing the acquisition before receiving clearance from the CCPC, Daily Mail and General Trust Plc and JPIMedia Limited have infringed section 19(1) of the Act. Consequently, as provided for by section 19(2) of the Act this acquisition is void.

Additional Information

DMG Media Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Daily Mail and General Trust Plc (“DMGT”). DMG Media owns and operates DMGT’s consumer media business, including two of the United Kingdom’s biggest paid-for newspapers, *The Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday*, and the free newspaper, *Metro*. DMGT’s activities in the State include the publication of local Irish newspapers (the *Irish Daily Mail* and the *Irish Mail on Sunday*) and the operation of a number of websites including MailOnline, Evoke.ie, Rollercoaster.ie and Extra.ie.

JPIMedia Publications Limited is a UK-based media company whose sole assets are the *i* newspaper and its associated website inews.co.uk.