

## MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT - M/21/050

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### Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed acquisition by Ard Services Limited (Circle K) of certain companies from the Griffin Retail Group.

28 October 2021

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On the 28 October 2021, the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission cleared the proposed transaction whereby Ard Services Limited (Circle K), would acquire sole control of Griffin Retail Group. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002, as amended, on 20 September 2021.

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. 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**

Ard Services Limited is a subsidiary of Circle K Ireland Holding Limited. Ard Services Limited operates Circle K's Company Owned Company Operated stores in Ireland and belongs to the group of companies comprising Alimentation Couche-Tard ("ACT"). ACT entered the Irish market in 2016 with the purchase of Topaz Energy Group Limited. All ACT Irish stores are forecourt convenience stores and are branded Circle K.

The Griffin Retail Group ("Griffin Group") are active in the convenience retailing of grocery goods as part of a symbol group of retail stores. Griffin Group operate Londis stores in the State (including an Insomnia coffee outlet adjoining the Sandyford Londis store). The stores also operate some franchises including Subway, Chopped, Insomnia and 'Boomerang Donuts'. Nine of the convenience stores operated by the Griffin Group and the Insomnia coffee outlet adjoining the Sandyford Londis store, are being sold as part of the proposed transaction.