



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT 13 AUGUST 2013

Competition Authority Clears Acquisition of Hartford Life

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed acquisition of Hartford Life International Limited by Columbia Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. The transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002 on 25 July 2013.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any markets for goods or services in the State. The Authority will publish a public version of the reasons for its determination on its website (www.tca.ie) no later than 12 October 2013 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

Notes

Berkshire Hathaway is a US company which is engaged, through its subsidiaries, in diverse business activities, including property and casualty insurance and reinsurance, utilities and energy, freight rail transportation, finance, manufacturing, retailing and services. In the State, Berkshire Hathaway's primary activity is reinsurance which it provides to customers via a number of different entities. Furthermore, Berkshire Hathaway (via its subsidiary National Indemnity Company) recently entered into a contract to reinsure 50% of VHI's health insurance business. Berkshire Hathaway is also active in the State through various subsidiaries, including Heinz, NetJets, Fruit of the Loom, and International Metal Working Companies.

Hartford Life International Limited is a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. Hartford Life International Limited is the holding company of Hartford Life Limited, an Irish incorporated entity based in County Dublin. Hartford Life Limited was established in 2004 and is the variable annuity (investment and retirement products) business of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc in the United Kingdom. Hartford Life Limited does not offer life assurance products (i.e., annuities) in the State.

For further information contact:

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