

CCPC clears Formpress Publishing’s purchase of Inishowen Independent

18 October 2024

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has given the go-ahead for Formpress Publishing to purchase D&D Media. The deal is now subject to further approval by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media*.

D&D Media owns the Inishowen Independent. Formpress Publishing owns a number of local and regional newspaper titles across Ireland, including the Donegal Democrat and Donegal Post. Mergers between media companies must be notified to the CCPC regardless of the size of the companies involved.

This proposed transaction ([M/24/026](#)) was notified to the CCPC in April 2024. The CCPC decided in August that a full investigation was required to establish whether the proposed purchase would lead to a substantial lessening of competition in the State.

Following this examination, the CCPC has determined that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition.

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Editor’s notes

The CCPC reviews mergers and acquisitions to ensure that competition in the affected market won’t be substantially reduced as a result of the transaction.

*Part 3A of the Competition Act 2002 sets out the process by which the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media assesses mergers involving media companies. This is a separate process which requires the Minister to consider whether the result of a media merger is likely to be contrary to the public interest in protecting plurality of the media in the State.

More details on the merger review process are contained in the CCPC’s guidelines and procedures set out at this link - [Mergers - CCPC Business](#).

Timelines

<i>Transaction Timelines to Date</i>		<i>Notes</i>
Notification	24 April 2024	This is the date from which the timelines, within which the CCPC must make a determination, begin to run.
Phase 1 Requirement for Information was issued to parties	5 June 2024	This pauses and resets the deadline for the CCPC to make a determination.

Required information received from parties and Requirement for Information complied with.	1 July 2024	This is the new date from which the timelines within which the CCPC must make a determination in Phase 1 (30 working days) and Phase 2 (120 working days total) begin to run.
Phase 1 Determination	8 August 2024	
Phase 2 Determination	17 October 2024	