



DETERMINATION OF MERGER NOTIFICATION M/24/037 – IVC EVIDENSIA (INDEPENDENT VETCARE)/WELL PET HOSPITAL

Section 21 of the Competition Act 2002

Proposed acquisition by Independent Vetcare Ireland Limited of the entire issued share capital, and thus sole control, of The Well Pet Hospital Limited

Dated 12 July 2024

1. On 24 June 2024, in accordance with s18(3) of the Competition Act 2002, as amended (the “Act”), the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (the “Commission”) received a notification of a proposed acquisition whereby Independent Vetcare Ireland Limited (“IVI”), which trades in the State as *IVC Evidensia Ireland* and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the IVC Evidensia group of companies (“IVCE”), would acquire sole control of The Well Pet Hospital Limited (“TWPH”) (the “Proposed Transaction”).¹
2. The Proposed Transaction is to be implemented by way of an agreement, dated 8 June 2024, between IVI and Derek and Susannah Carr (the “Transaction Agreement”).² Pursuant to the Transaction Agreement, IVI will acquire the entire issued share capital, and thus sole control, of TWPH.
3. The Parties are involved in the following business activities:

The Acquirer – IVI

- IVI’s portfolio comprises [...] veterinary practices, operating from [...] sites dispersed throughout the State.
- IVI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of IVC Acquisitions Limited, and part of IVCE. IVCE is a global veterinary care provider, headquartered in the UK, and operating across 20 countries worldwide.

¹ IVI and TWPH are referred to collectively in this determination as the “Parties”.

² In the Transaction Agreement, Derek and Susannah Carr are referred to as the “Sellers”.



- IVCE stated in the merger notification form that it provides veterinary practices in its network with support in the following areas:
 - central functions, such as accounts, HR, compliance, and training, including continual professional development and advice on best practice;
 - help with resourcing, including locums, and staff recruitment/retention;
 - the ability to share resources across practices;
 - investment in (a) the latest animal care techniques and technology; and (b) practice management systems to improve the customer experience; and
 - promotion of sustainability and charitable initiatives.

The Target – TWPH

- TWPH is an independent veterinary practice, located in Carraroe, Co. Sligo. The practice comprises seven veterinary practitioners operating from one facility based in Tonafortes, Carraroe.
- TWPH provides a range of local veterinary services, focused on small/companion animal care, to customers based in the Carraroe area.

4. After examination of the notification, the Commission has concluded that the Proposed Transaction falls within the scope of paragraph 2.1 of the Simplified Merger Notification Procedure Guidelines for assessing certain notifiable mergers or acquisitions under section 18(1)(a) of the Act since:

- two or more of the undertakings involved in the merger/acquisition are active in the same product and geographic market, but their combined market share is less than 15%.³

5. In the light of this, the Commission considers that the Proposed Transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State.

Ancillary Restraints

6. No ancillary restraints were notified.

³ The Commission's Simplified Merger Notification Procedure Guidelines can be found [here](#).



Determination

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, in accordance with section 21(2)(a) of the Competition Act 2002, as amended, has determined that, in its opinion, the result of the proposed acquisition, whereby Independent Vetcare Ireland Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the IVC Evidensia group of companies, would acquire sole control of The Well Pet Hospital Limited will not be to substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State, and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect.

For the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

Ibrahim Bah

Director

Competition Enforcement and Mergers Division