



DETERMINATION OF MERGER M/24/069 – GARVEY GROUP/ BLARNEY FILLING STATION

Section 21 of the Competition Act 2002

Proposed acquisition by Commidare Holdings LLP of sole control of SJB Limited and its wholly owned subsidiary, Blarney Filling Station Limited.

Dated 28 November 2024

Introduction

1. On 12 November 2024, in accordance with s18(1)(a) 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 Commidare Holdings LLP (“Commidare Holdings”) would acquire sole control of SJB Limited (“SJB”) and its wholly owned subsidiary, Blarney Filling Station Limited (“Blarney Filling Station”) (the “Proposed Transaction”).

The Proposed Transaction

2. The Proposed Transaction is to be implemented through a share purchase agreement, pursuant to which Commidare Holdings will acquire 100% of the issued share capital of SJB and its wholly owned subsidiary, Blarney Filling Station.
3. The business activities of the undertakings involved are:
 - **The Purchaser – The Garvey Group:**
 - Commidare Holdings is a holding entity controlled by the Garvey family who control and operate the Garvey Group of companies (the “Garvey Group”). The Garvey Group is active in a number of business areas including the retail grocery sector and the retail



motor fuels sector. In addition, the Garvey Group also operates in the hotel sector, prepared consumer foods, and the sports retail sector.

- The Garvey Group has a wholesale supply and branding relationship with Musgrave Group for its ten retail grocery stores which operate under the *SuperValu* or *Centra* brands. The three motor fuels service stations operated by the Garvey Group are located in Castleisland, Co. Kerry; Dungarvan, Co. Waterford; and Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick. The Garvey Group's motor fuel service stations located in Dungarvan and Newcastlewest are supplied by Maxol Limited ("Maxol"), and the Garvey Group's motor fuel service station located in Castleisland is supplied by Petrogas Group Limited (trading as Applegreen).
 - ***The Target – Blarney Filling Station***
 - SJB is a holding company with one subsidiary, Blarney Filling Station. Blarney Filling Station's sole business activity is the operation of a motor fuels service station and adjacent convenience store known as Blakes ("Blakes") located at Shean Lower, Co. Cork.
 - Blakes's motor fuels service station is supplied by Maxol, and it has a wholesale supply and branding relationship with Musgrave Group whereby its convenience store is operated under the *Centra* brand.
3. 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 of the Act since:
- None of the undertakings involved in the acquisition are active or potentially active in the same product and geographic markets.¹

¹ The Commission's Simplified Merger Notification Procedure Guidelines can be found [here](#).



4. 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

5. No ancillary restraints were notified.



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Iomaíocht agus
Cosaint Tomhaltóirí

Competition and
Consumer Protection
Commission

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 Commidare Holdings LLP will acquire 100% of the issued share capital of SJB Limited and its wholly owned subsidiary, Blarney Filling Station 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
Competition and Consumer Protection Commission