



## Notice of Acceptance

### **MERGER OF ACUTE SERVICES PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BRISTOL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST AND NORTH BRISTOL NHS TRUST**

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has decided that proposed transfers of certain services between University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and North Bristol NHS Trust constitute mergers of the relevant services. The CCP understands that these service transfers are interdependent, and so it intends to assess them within the framework of a single merger review.

The services concerned are the transfer from North Bristol NHS Trust to University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust of head and neck, ear, nose and throat, and oral and maxillo-facial services; and the transfer from University Hospital Bristol NHS Foundation Trust to North Bristol NHS Trust of symptomatic breast services and urology surgical services.

The transactions meet the CCP's acceptance criteria for a merger reference. That is:

- i. the proposed arrangements fall within the scope of Principle 10 of the Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition;
- ii. the CCP is the most appropriate body to consider these matters;
- iii. the parties have made available the relevant and applicable information on the cases to the CCP; and
- iv. the turnover threshold is satisfied in both cases as the combined organisation will exceed the relevant threshold of £70 million for providers of acute services.

As a result, the CCP is accepting this case with its investigation starting from the date of this notice, with Phase I to be completed by 9 April and Phase II, if required, by 1 August.

Catherine Davies  
Director, Cooperation and Competition Panel  
8 February 2013