

16 May 2014

Notice of Acceptance

PROPOSED PATHOLOGY TRANSACTION BETWEEN SOUTHPORT AND ORMSKIRK HOSPITAL NHS TRUST AND ST HELENS AND KNOWSLEY TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

Monitor has commenced a first phase review of the proposed partnering of the pathology services of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Under its memorandum of understanding with the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA), Monitor will provide its advice to the TDA on the impact of this transaction on choice and competition.

If Monitor finds that there could be a problem for patients as a result of a reduction in choice and competition, Monitor will then undertake a second phase of review to assess whether the potential patient and taxpayer benefits of merger outweigh the loss of choice and competition.

Monitor expects to conclude the first phase of its review by **11 July 2014**.