

**To:** The Board

**For meeting on:** 30 July 2014

**Agenda item:** 7

**Report by:** Catherine Davies, Executive Director of Co-operation and Competition

**Report on:** Co-operation and Competition update

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**Summary:**

1. This report provides the Board with information about the significant developments with regard to the work of the Co-operation and Competition directorate since the meeting of the Board on 25 June 2014.

**Recommendations:**

2. The Board is asked to note the update on the work of the Co-operation and Competition directorate.

**Potential pathology merger in North West England**

3. The directorate has completed the review of the proposed merger of the pathology activities of Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust and St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The recommendation to the NHS Trust Development Authority (NHS TDA), as agreed by the Co-operation and Competition Executive, was that this merger is not likely to have an adverse effect on patients as a result of a loss of choice or competition. The directorate published a non-confidential version of its report setting out its advice to the NHS TDA on 11 July 2014.

**Catherine Davies**  
**Executive Director of Cooperation and Competition**

## **Making a difference for patients:**

*Monitor's mission is to make the health sector work better for patients. This report provides an update on the Cooperation and Competition team. The key focus of this team is to ensure that patient choice and competition work in patients' interests.*

## **Public Sector Equality Duty:**

*Monitor has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. In relation to the issues set out in this paper, consideration has been given to the impact that the recommendations might have on these requirements and on the nine protected groups identified by the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, gender and sexual orientation).*

*It is anticipated that the recommendations of this paper are not likely to have any particular impact upon the requirements of or the protected groups identified by the Equality Act.*

## **Exempt information:**

*Some of this report is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

*Some of the information in this report (the confidential annex) is exempt from publication as it falls under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information is exempt because disclosure of that information would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice, or exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. In applying these exemptions, we have considered the public interest test; disclosure of this information will not enhance the accountability or transparency of Monitor as its disclosure would inhibit the free frank disclosure of information.*