

ACQUISITION BY MOLE VALLEY FARMERS LIMITED OF THE RETAIL BUSINESS OF COUNTRYWIDE FARMERS PLC

Revocation Order made by the Competition and Markets Authority pursuant to section 72(4)(b) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act)

Whereas:

- (a) the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) made an initial enforcement order pursuant to section 72(2) of the Act in relation to the anticipated acquisition by Mole Valley Farmers Plc of the retail business of Countrywide Farmers plc (Countrywide) (the Transaction) on 5 February 2018 (the Initial Enforcement Order);
- (b) on 3 January 2018 the CMA gave notice under section 34ZA(3) of the Act that the initial period in relation to the Transaction commenced on 4 January 2018;
- (c) the CMA is continuing to conduct its assessment of the Transaction and has not yet taken a decision, pursuant to section 22 of the Act, as to whether it is or may be the case that a relevant merger situation has been created and whether the creation of that situation has resulted or may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in any market or markets in the United Kingdom for goods or services;
- (d) the CMA considers that, on the basis of the additional evidence and information it has received since the Initial Enforcement Order was made, in relation to the doing of things which the CMA considers would constitute pre-emptive action for the purposes of section 72(2) of the Act, it is appropriate to revoke the Initial Enforcement Order;

Now for the purpose of revoking the Initial Enforcement Order the CMA makes the following order pursuant to section 72(4)(b) of the Act, addressed to Countrywide (Revocation Order).

1. This Revocation Order commences on 19 February 2018.
2. This Order applies to Countrywide.
3. The CMA revokes the Initial Enforcement Order.

Colin Raftery
Director, Mergers