

27 February 2020

Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust merger inquiry

**Notice under section 96(2A) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act)
published pursuant to section 107(1)(i) of the Act**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) hereby gives notice pursuant to section 96(2A) of the Act that the merger notice provided by Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in relation to the anticipated merger between Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (the Merger) meets the requirements of section 96(2) of the Act.

The initial period defined in section 34ZA(3) of the Act in relation to the Merger will therefore commence on the first working day after the date of this notice, ie on 28 February 2020. The deadline for the CMA to announce its decision whether to refer the Merger for a Phase 2 investigation is therefore 27 April 2020.