

Merger investigation into the Completed acquisition by the Ecolab Group of The Holchem Group Limited.

Case closure summary

On 30 November 2018 the Ecolab Group (**'Ecolab'**) acquired the entire issued share capital of The Holchem Group Limited (**'Holchem'**) (the **'Merger'**).

A group of independent panel members (**the Group**) at the Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) investigated the Merger and published its [Final Report](#) on 8 October 2019. In its Final Report, the Group concluded that:

- (a) the Merger has created a relevant merger situation;
- (b) the creation of that situation has resulted in, and may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition (**'SLC'**) in relation to the supply of formulated cleaning chemicals (and ancillary services) to F&B customers in the UK.

The Group concluded that the divestiture of Holchem Laboratories to a suitable purchaser would be an effective and proportionate remedy to the SLC and the adverse effects likely to arise from it.

On 23 December 2019, the CMA accepted [Final Undertakings](#) from Ecolab to sell the Holchem Group Limited to a purchaser approved by the CMA. The Purchase of Holchem was approved by the CMA and on 28 May 2020 Holchem was acquired by Kilco Holdings Limited, a subsidiary of the Kersia Group.

This brings the merger investigation to a close.

5 June 2020