

Completed Acquisitions by Independent Vetcare Limited (IVC) of eight independent veterinary businesses

20 December 2022

NOTICE UNDER PARAGRAPH (b) OF THE DEFINITION OF 'INITIAL PERIOD' IN SECTION 34ZA(3) OF THE ENTERPRISE ACT 2002 (THE ACT) PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 107(1)(ab) OF THE ACT

The Competition and Markets Authority (**CMA**) hereby gives notice pursuant to paragraph (b) of the definition of 'initial period' in section 34ZA(3) of the Act that it has sufficient information in relation to each of the completed acquisitions by Independent Vetcare Limited (**IVC**) of eight independent veterinary practices listed in Annex 1 to this Notice (the **Mergers**) to enable it to begin investigations for the purposes of deciding whether to make a reference for a Phase 2 investigation in relation to any or all of the Mergers.

The initial periods defined in section 34ZA(3) of the Act in relation to the Mergers will therefore all commence on the first working day after the date of this notice, ie on 21 December. The end of the initial periods and the deadline for the CMA to announce its decisions whether to refer any or all of the Mergers for Phase 2 investigation(s) is therefore 17 February 2023.

Annex 1 to Commencement Notice

- Penrose Veterinary Group Limited;
- Kevin Castle (Pet Care) Ltd;
- Swayne & Partners Topco Limited (including Swayne & Partners Limited);
- Treforest Vets (Holdings) Limited (including Treforest Veterinary Clinic Ltd¹;
- Mercer & Hughes Limited;
- Swaffham Veterinary Centre Limited;
- Anglesey Pet Clinic Ltd, and
- Chiltern Equine Clinic (including Chiltern Veterinary Services Limited & Chiltern Bury Farm Limited).

¹ Including Treforest and Tonypandy Veterinary Clinics