

Dear CMA,

I welcome the provisional findings of the CMA in relation to the merger of Cochlear and Oticon Medical.

I welcome the possible remedies of prohibition or partial prohibition.

If an alternative manufacturer of hearing devices has stated (during this process) that they would be interested in purchasing Oticon Medical – either in its entirety or the bone conduction systems part of the business – this would be welcome to sustain competition, research and development.

I do not believe that behavioural remedies will be in the best interests of patients or the NHS. Particularly, the proposal to continue to offer Oticon Medical products for a 5 year period does not appear beneficial. Bone conduction hearing devices develop rapidly.

Since 2013 (i.e. 10 years), there have been the following ranges of Oticon Medical bone conduction products:

Ponto Pro
Ponto Plus
Ponto 3
Ponto 5

i.e. there is a new range approximately every 2-3 years.

So continuing to offer the products for 5 years without developing them will not maintain competition. The Oticon Medical devices will quickly fall behind the Cochlear ones, and will therefore not be a realistic alternative for patients or the NHS.

Thank you for the chance to comment on this.

Best wishes,

Adam Beckman

Adam Beckman
Head of Audiology Services
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Derriford Hospital
Derriford Road
Plymouth
PL6 8DH