



Determination No. M/04/025 of the Competition Authority, dated 28th May 2004, under Section 21 of the Competition Act, 2002

Notification No. M/04/025 – Proposal by Thomas Crosbie Holdings Limited to acquire Roscommon Herald Limited

Introduction

1. On 23rd April 2004 the Competition Authority, in accordance with section 18 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002 (“the Act”) was notified, on a mandatory basis, of a proposal whereby Thomas Crosbie Holdings Limited (TCH) would acquire Roscommon Herald Limited. The Authority informed the parties and the Minister that it considers the proposed transaction to be a media merger within the meaning of section 23 of the Competition Act 2002. On 28th April 2004, the Authority requested information within the meaning of section 20(2) of the Act, which information was furnished on 5th May.

The Parties

2. TCH is a holding company, which publishes daily and weekly national and regional newspaper titles: Irish Examiner, The Sunday Business Post, Evening Echo, Western People, Kildare Nationalist, Laois Nationalist, The Nationalist, Waterford News & Star, The Kingdom, Sligo Weekender, Newry Democrat, Down Democrat and The Irish Post.
3. Roscommon Herald is a weekly newspaper publication, the majority circulation of which is achieved in the Connacht region.

Analysis

4. Although TCH owns two other weekly newspapers which are circulated in the Connacht region, namely Sligo Weekender and Western People, the circulation of these is primarily centred in Sligo and Mayo respectively, whereas the Roscommon Herald is circulated primarily in Roscommon. Moreover there are a sufficient number of other weekly publications in the Connacht region to exercise a competitive constraint on TCH. These publications include Connacht Tribune, Roscommon Champion, Sligo Champion and Mayo News. Therefore the transaction does not give rise to concerns.



The Competition Authority
An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

Determination

The Competition Authority, in accordance with Section 21(2) of the Competition Act, 2002, has determined that, in its opinion, the result of the proposed acquisition by Thomas Crosbie Holdings Limited of Roscommon Herald will not be to substantially lessen competition in markets for goods and services in the State and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect.

For the Competition Authority

Edward Henneberry
Member of the Competition Authority

28th May 2004