



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed acquisition by News Corp UK & Ireland Limited of Wireless Group plc

2 August 2016

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby News Corp UK & Ireland Limited, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of News Corporation, would acquire sole control of Wireless Group plc. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002, as amended (the “Act”) on 30 June 2016. Given that both News Corporation and Wireless Group plc carry on a “media business” within the State (as defined in section 28A(1) of the Act), the proposed transaction constitutes a “media merger” for the purposes of Part 3A of the Act.

The Commission has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State, and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect subject to the provisions of section 28C(1) of the Act. The Commission will publish the reasons for its determination on its website no later than 60 working days after the date of the determination and after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

Additional Information

News Corporation is an international media and information services company, which is incorporated in the state of Delaware, USA and is listed on the NASDAQ stock market. News Corporation and its subsidiaries are active in newspaper publishing, information services, book publishing, digital real estate and cable network programming. In the State, News Corp UK & Ireland Limited publishes local editions of The Sun, The Sun on Sunday and The Sunday Times. News Corp UK & Ireland Limited sells the hardcopy United Kingdom edition of The Times in the State and publishes a digital-only Irish edition of The Times which is available to subscribers. News Corp UK & Ireland Limited also operates websites and apps for its newspaper titles. News Corp UK & Ireland Limited sells advertising space in the Irish editions of its newspapers. News Corporation’s subsidiary Storyful Limited is headquartered in Dublin and is active in the verification and licensing of video content posted on social media to wider media platforms.

Wireless Group plc, currently listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Irish Stock Exchange, is a media company operating commercial radio stations and digital media businesses in the United Kingdom and in the State. In the State, Wireless Group plc operates the following six local radio stations under sound broadcasting contracts awarded by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland: Q102 (Co. Dublin), FM104 (Co. Dublin), 96FM (Co. Cork), C103 (Co. Cork), Live 95FM (Co. Limerick) and LMFM (Counties Louth and Meath). Wireless Group plc also operates a national radio sales house, Urban Media, which sells radio advertising on behalf of its six radio stations and two radio stations operated by third parties: WLR FM and Galway Bay FM.