



## News Release

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### CC CLEARS FERRY ACQUISITION

The Competition Commission (CC) has formally cleared Stena AB's completed acquisition of two Irish Sea ferry services from DFDS A/S.

This confirms the [provisional findings](#) which were published last month. In its final report [published today](#), the CC has concluded that the acquisition has not resulted and is not likely to result in a substantial lessening of competition for the supply of freight and passenger ferry services between the North-West of England and Northern Ireland (the 'diagonal routes') or for Irish Sea ferry services in general. The CC found that Stena will continue to face a direct competitor in each of the corridors in which it operates following the acquisition.

Stena and DFDS both operated ferry services on the Irish Sea on a variety of routes. They transported both freight and passengers. In December 2010, Stena bought the vessels and assets associated with two routes previously operated by DFDS between Liverpool and Belfast, and between Heysham and Belfast. Also in December 2010, Stena closed the route it operated between Fleetwood and Larne, and the CC found that it would have done so in any event.

#### Notes for editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the Office of Fair Trading to refer to the CC completed or proposed mergers for investigation and report which create or enhance a 25 per cent share of supply in the UK (or a substantial part thereof) or where the UK turnover associated with the enterprise being acquired is over £70 million.
3. The members of the Group are Peter Davis (Group Chairman), Phil Evans, Richard Farrant and Anthony Morris. The CC has a 24-week period in which it is required to publish its report, which may be extended by no more than eight weeks if it considers that there are special reasons why the report cannot be published within that period.
4. Further information on this inquiry, including the terms of reference and other key documents, as well as on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from the CC website at [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).

5. Enquiries should be directed to [Rory Taylor](#) or [Siobhan Allen](#) or by telephoning 020 7271 0242.