



# News Release

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## R&B MERGER GETS CLEARED

The Competition Commission (CC) has formally cleared the anticipated acquisition by Ratcliff Palfinger Limited of the commercial vehicles tail lifts spare parts business of Ross & Bonnyman Limited.

This confirms the [provisional findings](#) which were published last month. The full report is now available on the CC's [website](#).

Ratcliff Palfinger is, and Ross & Bonnyman was until recently, leading UK suppliers of tail lifts, which are used to transfer goods in and out of commercial vehicles.

The CC first examined whether Ross & Bonnyman's decision to wind down its tail lift business was in any way influenced by the agreement to sell its associated spare parts business. It concluded that that was not the case—Ross & Bonnyman had decided to exit tail lift manufacturing some time before entering into discussions with Ratcliff Palfinger, and had already stopped manufacturing even though the merger had not been completed.

Consequently the CC looked only at whether the acquisition would affect competition in the spare parts market. It concluded that there was no significant effect because competition between suppliers of spare parts for different makes of tail lift was already extremely limited, as most spare parts are designed specifically to fit one make of tail lift.

### 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 Inquiry Group are: Roger Witcomb (CC Chairman & Chairman of Inquiry Group), Roger Davis, John Longworth and Richard Taylor.

4. 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.
5. 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).
6. Enquiries should be directed to [Rory Taylor](#) or [Siobhan Allen](#) or by telephoning 020 7271 0242.