



# News Release

41/09

20 August 2009

## **COMPETITION COMMISSION CLEARS HOLLAND AND BARRETT/JULIAN GRAVES MERGER**

The Competition Commission (CC) has formally cleared the completed acquisition of Julian Graves Limited by Holland and Barrett (which is owned by NBTY Europe Limited).

In its final report published today the CC has concluded that the merger would not result in a substantial lessening of competition within the market for the supply of nuts, seeds and dried fruit in the UK, or any local market in the UK. This confirms the conclusions of the [provisional findings](#) report, which was published on 22 July 2009.

The final report is published on the CC website at [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).

Julian Graves is a large independent specialist food and ingredients retailer, with over 350 stores in the UK, whilst Holland and Barrett is the UK's leading specialist retailer of health products, with over 500 stores across the country. Prior to the merger, both companies were competing in the sale of nuts, seeds and dried fruit.

### **Notes to 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 OFT 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 Holland and Barrett/Julian Graves Inquiry Group were: Diana Guy (Group Chairman), Ian Jones, Peter Jones and Jonathan Whiticar.
4. Further information on this inquiry, including the terms of reference and other key documents, as well as on the CC and its procedures, 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 John Park on 020 7271 0242 (email [rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk) or [john.park@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.park@cc.gsi.gov.uk)).