



# News Release

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## CC CLEARS STILTON MERGER

The Competition Commission (CC) has formally cleared the completed acquisition by Long Clawson Dairy Limited (Long Clawson) of the Millway business of Dairy Crest Group plc (Millway).

In its final report, published today at [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk), the CC has concluded that, without its sale to Long Clawson, the Millway business, which has been loss making for many years and has recently lost a number of its most significant customers, would have been closed by Dairy Crest.

Compared with this alternative outcome, the loss of competition caused by the merger is likely to be small and so the CC does not believe that it will lead to a substantial lessening of competition for the supply of Blue Stilton cheese in the UK.

This confirms the CC's provisional findings, which were published in December (see the news release at [www.competition-commission.org.uk/press\\_rel/2008/dec/pdf/43-08.pdf](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/press_rel/2008/dec/pdf/43-08.pdf)).

The merger was referred by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 8 October 2008 and the CC was required to publish its final report by 24 March 2009.

### Notes to editors

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The Long Clawson/Millway (Stilton Cheese) inquiry group consisted of four members: Diana Guy (Group Chairman), Ian Jones, Peter Stoddart and Robert Turgoose.
4. Further information on the CC and its procedures can be obtained from its website at: [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk). Media enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor on 020 7271 0242 (email: [rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk)).