

Notice of Cancellation

NATIONAL MILK RECORDS PLC/CATTLE INFORMATION SERVICES LTD CANCELLATION OF MERGER REFERENCE

The Competition Commission cancelled the reference concerning the proposed acquisition by National Milk Records Plc of the milk recording business of The Cattle Information Services owned by Holstein UK on 18 March 2004.

The reference was made to the Commission on 3 March 2004 by the Office of Fair Trading under section 33 of the Enterprise Act 2002. The terms of reference required the Commission to examine:

- (a) whether arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
- (b) if so, whether the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the United Kingdom.

The Commission has received assurances from both National Milk Records Plc and Holstein UK that the proposed acquisition by National Milk Records Plc of the milk recording business of The Cattle Information Services (a wholly owned subsidiary of Holstein UK) has been abandoned as the parties no longer intend to proceed with the transaction. The Chairman of the Commission, Sir Derek Morris, having had regard to those assurances, is satisfied that National Milk Records Plc has, within the terms of section 37(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002, abandoned the proposal to make arrangements of the kind mentioned in the reference. The Chairman has consequently cancelled the reference in accordance with his powers under Schedule 7 to the Competition Act 1998.

This cancellation is published in accordance with requirements laid down by sections 107(2)(a) and (4) of the Enterprise Act 2002.