



News Release

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28 May 2009

STAGECOACH/PRESTON BUS MERGER

Competition Commission invites evidence

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has referred the completed acquisition of Preston Bus Limited by Stagecoach Bus Holdings Limited to the Competition Commission (CC).

The CC has been asked to decide whether the acquisition may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK.

Prior to the acquisition, Preston Bus Limited provided local bus services in Preston and South Ribble, while Stagecoach is one of the largest bus and coach companies in the UK, with operations in over 100 towns and cities.

The CC is expected to report by 12 November 2009.

The CC would like to hear from all interested parties, in writing, by 19 June 2009. To submit evidence, please email Stagecoach.Preston@cc.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Inquiry Manager
Stagecoach/Preston Inquiry
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
LONDON
WC1B 4AD

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 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 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.

5. Enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor or John Park on 020 7271 0242 (email: rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk or john.park@cc.gsi.gov.uk).