



News Release

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CC FORMALLY CLEARS WOOLWORTHS/BERTRAM MERGER

The Competition Commission (CC) has formally cleared the completed acquisition by Woolworths Group plc (Woolworths) of Bertram Group Limited (Bertram).

In its final report published today at www.competition-commission.org.uk, the CC has concluded that the merger of Bertram's and Woolworths' book wholesaling interests has not resulted, nor may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in the supply of books to retailers (either supermarkets or other retailers), or in the supply of books to libraries.

This confirms the CC's provisional findings, which were published last month. See news release dated at 24 July 2007: http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/press_rel/2007/july/index.htm.

The merger was referred by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 3 April 2007.

Notes for editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The members of the merger inquiry group are: Diana Guy (Group Chairman and a CC Deputy Chairman), Ivar Grey, Richard Taylor and Professor Michael Waterson.
3. 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.
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. It is required to report by 17 September 2007.
5. Enquiries should be directed to Siobhan Allen on 020 7271 0242 (email siobhan.allen@cc.gsi.gov.uk).