



## MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT – M/17/005

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### Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears the proposed acquisition of sole control of Aras Slainte Limited by Vhi Investments DAC

10/05/2017

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The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (the “Commission”) has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby Vhi Investments DAC, an indirectly wholly-owned subsidiary of the Voluntary Health Insurance Board (“Vhi”), would acquire sole control of Aras Slainte Limited. The proposed transaction was notified to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission under the Competition Act 2002, as amended, on 1 February 2017.

The Competition Act 2002 requires the Commission to determine whether the proposed transaction would result in a “substantial lessening of competition”. During the extended investigation, the Commission requested and received, on an on-going basis, further information and clarifications from the notifying parties and third parties. The Commission’s analysis of the proposed transaction involved an in-depth economic assessment of the affected relevant markets, consultation with third parties and an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed transaction on consumers.

The Commission has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State. The Commission will publish the reasons for its Determination on its website no later than 60 working days after the date of the Determination and after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

#### **Additional Information**

Vhi is active in the provision of private health insurance in the State. Vhi Investments DAC is active in the provision of primary care services in the State through its 50% interest in three Vhi SwiftCare clinics located at the following addresses in the State:

- Rockfield Medical Campus, Balally, Dundrum, Dublin 14;
- Columba House, Airside Retail Park, Swords, Co. Dublin; and,
- City Gate, Mahon, Co. Cork.

Aras Slainte Limited, a subsidiary of Centric Health and ultimately owned by Jellia Holdings Limited, is active in the provision of primary care services in the State through its 50% interest in the three Vhi SwiftCare clinics listed above.

Vhi Investments DAC and Aras Slainte currently jointly control the three Vhi SwiftCare clinics listed above. Following completion of the proposed transaction, Vhi, through Vhi Investment DAC, will acquire sole control of three Vhi SwiftCare clinics.