



## **NEWS RELEASE**

17<sup>th</sup> November 2004

### **The Competition Authority to carry out full investigation of Grafton's acquisition of Heiton**

The Competition Authority announced today (17<sup>th</sup> November) that it has decided to carry out a full (Phase 2) investigation in relation to the proposed acquisition by Grafton Group plc of Heiton Group plc. Both parties are involved in provision of retail DIY and builders merchandising services. Grafton and Heiton are public limited companies, and are both listed on the Irish and London Stock Exchanges.

The Competition Authority received notification of the proposed acquisition on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2004. The Authority is required under the Mergers and Acquisitions section of the Competition Act 2002 to determine whether the result of the proposed acquisition will "substantially lessen competition" in markets for goods or services in the State. On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004, the Authority made a formal request for further information of both Grafton and Heiton, pursuant to Section 20(2) of the Act.

After a preliminary investigation (Phase 1), the Authority has been unable to conclude without further investigation that the transaction will not substantially lessen competition.

The Competition Authority has until 17<sup>th</sup> February 2005 to make a final determination on the transaction (the Authority may conclude its investigation in advance of this date). The investigation of the proposed acquisition will examine the effect on competition in the provision of retail DIY and builders merchandising services.

Interested parties are invited to make written or oral submissions, which must be made **no later than 5.00pm on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004**. Submissions should be marked "M/04/051 – Grafton / Heiton", and should be addressed to Patrick Neill, Mergers Division, The Competition Authority, Parnell House, 14 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 or sent by e-mail to [mergers@tca.ie](mailto:mergers@tca.ie)

**ENDS**

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