

21 Netherway  
St Albans,  
Herts  
AL3 4NE  
06/09/04

Inquiry Secretary (Arriva/Sovereign)  
Competition Commission  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
London  
WC1B 4AD

Dear Sir or Madam,

Arriva plc Acquisition of the Sovereign Bus and Coach Company

Regarding the above acquisition, I would like you to consider the affect this merger could have on the ability of University Bus to promote its season tickets to students on the University of Hertfordshire should this merger go through.

Currently, University Bus and Sovereign Bus run a sharing agreement under which students holding University Bus travel cards (annual or bi-annual season tickets) can travel on Sovereign Bus services in addition to services of University Bus. However, there is no such agreement with Arriva and travel card students using Arriva services must pay the applicable fare when using Arriva services.

If this merger is successful the sharing agreement between University Bus and Sovereign Bus will most likely cease and limit students' ability to travel the combined coverage of University and Sovereign routes at a fixed, inclusive cost.

Additionally, it is possible that this loss of route coverage to travel card passengers would apply also to "non-student" passengers. Therefore, the merger is clearly against the public interest and it should be stopped unless the existing arrangements for student and "non-student" (if applicable) travel card holders are preserved.

Yours faithfully,



J.D Gibbs