

Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

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16 September 2004

Mr Mike Davey
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London WC1B 4AD

Dear Mr Davey

The anticipated acquisition by Arriva plc of the Hertfordshire bus operations of Sovereign Bus and Coach Company Ltd

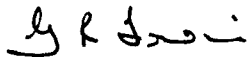
Thank you for granting Little Berkhamsted Parish Council an extension until 22 September to respond to your consultation paper.

Little Berkhamsted is a small rural parish in East Hertfordshire of which part is served by three buses a day into Hertford run by Arriva under contract to Hertfordshire County Council.

The Council is concerned that the merger of the two largest providers of bus services in Hertfordshire will significantly reduce competition and that when the contract comes up for renewal, without sufficient viable competition, Arriva may propose a service that is either more costly or less frequent than at present which would be unacceptable.

We hope therefore that the Commission will reject the proposed merger.

Yours sincerely



Graham Irwin
Clerk to the Parish Council