



# News Release

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10 December 2004

## **ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY BRITTANY FERRIES OF P&O'S PORTSMOUTH TO LE HAVRE SERVICE**

### **Competition Commission invites evidence**

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has referred the anticipated acquisition by Brittany Ferries (Bretagne-Angleterre-Irlande S.A.) of certain assets used by P&O Ferries on its Portsmouth to Le Havre ferry route to the Competition Commission (CC).

The CC has been asked to consider whether this may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within the market for the supply of ferry services to freight and tourist customers.

The CC is required to publish its final report by 23 May 2005.

The CC would like to hear from all interested parties, in writing, by Friday 24 December 2004. To submit evidence, please write to:

Inquiry Secretary (Brittany Ferries/P&O merger inquiry)  
Competition Commission  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
LONDON  
WC1B 4AD

Or email: [Brittany.P&O@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Brittany.P&O@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Notes for editors**

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. Further information on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from its web site at: [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).
4. Enquiries should be directed to Francis Royle on 020 7271 0242 (email [francis.royle@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:francis.royle@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk)) or Rory Taylor on 020 7271 0398 (email [rory.taylor@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rory.taylor@competition-commission.gsi.gov.uk)).
5. The full text of the OFT's referral decision will be placed on the mergers section of the OFT's web site [www.of.gov.uk](http://www.of.gov.uk) as soon as is reasonably practicable.