

News story: CMA clears UK meat processing merger

The CMA has cleared the merger of Dawn Meats' and Dunbia's UK businesses, following an investigation.

The companies process meat for a range of different types of food products and operate various facilities across the UK and Ireland.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) conducted a phase 1 investigation into the merger, which found it does not give rise to competition concerns. This applies to both the purchase of livestock (cattle and sheep) from farmers and the supply of unprocessed and processed meats to customers across the UK.

This is because the companies do not currently compete strongly for the purchase of livestock.

They also would continue to face strong competition from alternative suppliers in the supply of unprocessed and processed meats.

The merger was part of a wider transaction that included the acquisition by Dawn Meats of the Irish beef business of Dunbia, which was assessed separately by the [Irish Competition and Consumer Protection Commission](#) (CCPC).

Throughout the investigation, the CMA cooperated closely with the CCPC and also with the [European Commission](#), which reviewed a parallel merger of competitors in the same sector. The decisions from these reviews are being announced today (29 September 2017).

The merger will therefore not be referred for an in-depth investigation.

Information relating to this investigation can be found on the [case page](#).

Press release: Highways England Strategic Design Panel vision and progress report published

Among the recommendations of the multi-partner panel is the need for a Good Design Guide and design being central to a review of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges which is used across the world. (See the [published report](#)).

The [panel was set up](#) to support the development of a culture where good design is at the heart of everything within Highways England and the wider road sector. This coincides with Highways England delivering the biggest programme of Government investment in a generation. The panel's focus is on strategic input rather than scheme specific details, targeting where its expertise, insight and guidance will have most positive impact and wider benefit such as standards, procurement and evaluation.

Highways England Chief Highway Engineer Mike Wilson said:

As we continue to successfully deliver the first Road Investment Strategy, I share the aspiration that as well as our roads being safe, efficient and affordable, that they are also beautiful. I do not underestimate the challenge of this; it requires a culture shift for Highways England and the wider roads sector. We will now review the recommendations and provide an update in due course.

The Panel has made the following key recommendations:

- Highways England should publish the design vision and principles recommended by the Panel and should work to develop a Good Design Guide.
- Highways England should ensure that its design vision and principles are implemented effectively and that the Good Design Guide becomes a practical tool across its projects and wider operations.
- Highways England should establish a specific objective aimed at ensuring that a design led approach, as set out in the design vision and principles, is at the heart of the review of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

The panel members come from a range of disciplines and represent stakeholders who have a passionate interest in the design of the Strategic Road Network:

- Campaign for Better Transport
- Design Council/Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)
- Transport Focus
- Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Landscape Institute
- Historic England
- The Prince's Foundation
- Institution of Structural Engineers
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Natural England
- National Trust

Sarah Weir OBE, Chief Executive, Design Council said:

Highways England are to be congratulated on the approach they have

taken in establishing its Design Panel and having it focus on the strategic aspects of design, and we are delighted to have contributed to its work and proud to be a part of it. The Design Panel's report sets a design challenge for Highways England that puts design processes and thinking at the heart of the planning and development of the strategic road network. The Design Council fully endorses the Design Vision and comprehensive '10 Principles of Good Design' and welcomes the focus on valuing both the beauty of the places through which roads pass and the experience of people that live with and use road infrastructure. The Design Council supports Highways England's use of these principles through its planned Good Design Guide for the review of its overarching Design Manual, and encourages Highways England to use these as the means by which designs for future road infrastructure are measured, so that the full benefits of good design can be released through their work.

Phil Carey, Policy Advisor to Transport Focus, said:

As the Panel's report makes clear, at the heart of good design must be a road that works well for users – one that puts safety first, is easy to use, and is as far as possible a pleasure to travel on.

Clare Warburton, Senior advisor for Transport at Natural England and one of the report authors said:

Consideration for communities, the natural beauty and character of places as well as their surrounding landscapes in road design, is essential if we are to create a lasting, resilient transport legacy that contributes positively to the natural environment.

Ian Wilson, Assistant Director Operations (South West), National Trust, said:

The National Trust is hugely supportive of Highways England's emphasis on improving the design and environmental standards of our roads. Building or improving roads in sensitive landscapes such as World Heritage Sites or AONBs is not easy. We are delighted to be working with Highways England and other partners to lift the standard of design and ensure that our roads function well and respect the places and communities through which they pass.

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

News story: New Deputy Chief Medical Officer appointed

The Department of Health has confirmed the appointment of Professor Jonathan Van-Tam as the new Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England.

Professor Van-Tam will take up the position on 2 October 2017. He replaces Professor John Watson who is retiring after 4 years in the role.

The Deputy Chief Medical Officers are senior public health leaders who support the Chief Medical Officer – the most senior adviser on health and medicine to the UK government.

Professor Van-Tam is an internationally recognised flu, vaccine and respiratory expert. During his 25-year career, he has advised the World Health Organization, the UK Government and The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control on influenza and other respiratory virus infections.

He graduated in medicine from the University of Nottingham in 1987, trained in public health medicine from 1991, and became a Senior Lecturer at the University of Nottingham in 1997.

In addition to publishing 150 scientific papers, Professor Van Tam has also held the following posts:

- 2004 to 2007: Head of the Pandemic Influenza Office at the UK Health Protection Agency
- 2005 to 2009: part of the UK national Scientific Pandemic Influenza Committee (SPI)
- 2007 to 2017: consultant to the World Health Organization on influenza
- 2007 to date: Professor of Health Protection at the University of Nottingham
- 2009 to 2010: part of the UK Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) during the influenza pandemic
- 2010 to 2017: leader of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Pandemic Influenza and Research
- 2013 to 2017: Editor-in-Chief of Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses
- 2014 to date: Chair of the UK Government's New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threat Advisory Group (NERVTAG).

Professor Van-Tam said:

It is a great honour to be given the opportunity to serve as the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England. I am looking forward to the work ahead with enormous enthusiasm.

Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer said:

I would like to congratulate Professor Van-Tam on his appointment. His track record speaks for itself; he will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the role and I look forward to working closely with him.

Professor John Watson has been a fantastic Deputy Chief Medical Officer. I would like to thank him for his huge contribution to public health and for his expert support.

Government response: Kent aggregate dredging application

A public consultation on additional information to support an application by Dover Harbour Board (DHB) for aggregate dredging activity off the Kent coast closed on 28 September 2017.

The MMO recognises there is a high level of public interest in this application, particularly relating to proposed extraction of aggregate from the Goodwin Sands.

The MMO is currently in the process of gathering and considering the representations received as part of the consultation process.

The MMO will also work with DHB to consider issues raised before making a determination.

Stakeholders who responded directly to the MMO about the consultation will be sent an acknowledgement. These people will also be notified directly once the MMO has considered the representations received and reached a decision.

Although the MMO aims to determine licence applications within 13 weeks, in some cases, such as where an application is for a complex activity and/or significant representations have been made, the process may take longer as it is important to take into account all relevant representations.

The MMO is required to base its decisions on the best available scientific evidence. We are committed to being a transparent regulator and will publish documents and evidence relating to the case via the [public register](#) on our website, case reference MLA/2016/00227. This does not include details of any other permissions developers may also need to carry out work in the marine area, such as agreements with the owner of the seabed.

News story: Improving collaboration to protect public health – MHRA and Care Quality Commission sign MoU

MHRA and Care Quality Commission (CQC) set out key principles to support their collaboration on improving public health.

Today we have set out how we will work more effectively with CQC in a new [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) (PDF, 200KB, 7 pages) .

CQC is the independent regulator of health and social care services in England. They also monitor the use of the Mental Health Act 1983 and protect the interests of people whose rights are restricted under the Act.

We have worked closely with CQC on alert systems, medicines issues and online healthcare services. Our working relationship helps maintain an effective regulatory system for health and adult social care in England, while promoting patient safety and high quality care.

The new MoU sets out the framework to support our joint working relationship. We agree on how to share information, to carry out regulatory functions and to benefit the public. These principles underpin the MoU:

- addressing overlaps and gaps in the regulatory framework and responsibilities
- cooperating openly and transparently
- respecting each other's independent status
- using resources and intelligence effectively and efficiently

Notes to Editor

1. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Mr David Behan, Chief Executive, CQC and Dr Ian Hudson, Chief Executive, MHRA.
2. MHRA is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgments to ensure that the benefits justify any risks. MHRA is a centre of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency which also includes the [National Institute for Biological Standards and Control \(NIBSC\)](#) and the [Clinical Practice Research Datalink \(CPRD\)](#). The Agency is an executive agency of the Department of Health. www.mhra.gov.uk