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Turasóireachta agus Fostaíochta  
Department of Enterprise,  
Tourism and Employment

# Public Consultation on proposed changes to Merger and Acquisitions notifications to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

# Public Consultation on proposed changes to Merger and Acquisitions notifications to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

## Introduction

The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment is seeking views on proposed changes to the thresholds at which Mergers and Acquisitions must be notified to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC).

The Competition Act 2002, as amended (the “2002 Act”) requires that undertakings involved in a merger or acquisition must make a notification to the CCPC if specified financial thresholds are met in the most recent financial year. The purpose of this notification is to ensure that the merger or acquisition is considered in terms of its impact on competition in the sector concerned. These thresholds were last increased on 1 January 2019.

Currently, where the aggregate turnover in the State of the undertakings involved is not less than €60m, and the turnover in the State of each of 2 or more of the undertakings involved is not less than €10m, then the merger or acquisition must be notified to the CCPC. The CCPC has requested, following an analysis of the matter and consideration of potential threshold increases (see [Appendix 1](#)) that the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, increase the thresholds to an aggregate turnover of €100m and individual turnover of €15m. Any views of the public in this respect are welcome.

## Background

Prior to the increase in merger thresholds in 2019, the number of notifications to the CCPC trended upwards without a significant impact being identified on the markets involved. These notifications were therefore resulting in additional costs for the businesses involved. Since the 2019 increase, the number of notifications is again trending upwards, replicating the previous pattern. In 2019, 47 notifications were made, compared to 90 in 2025. 85% of notifications made between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025 were cleared by the CCPC without any significant concerns. As such, a review of the thresholds was considered timely.

It is important to note that since the introduction of the current financial thresholds there have been two significant developments with respect to the scope and operation of the CCPC's merger review:

- i. ***The Simplified Merger Notification Procedure***: The CCPC has implemented a simplified merger notification procedure (“SMNP”), which came into effect in July 2020. This procedure ensures that certain notifiable mergers that clearly do not raise competition concerns can be reviewed and determined within a shorter period of time (reviews under the SMNP were completed in an average of 12.47 days in 2025). This is designed to reduce the overall burden of merger review on businesses and the CCPC, where appropriate. In 2025, 70% of mergers notified were notified pursuant to the SMNP.
- ii. ***Call-In Powers***: The Competition (Amendment) Act 2022, which amended the 2002 Act and came into force in September 2023, provides the CCPC with the statutory power to require the notification of mergers that do not meet the financial thresholds, where the CCPC considers that the merger may have an effect on competition on markets for goods and services in the State.

As part of its analysis into the merits of increasing the financial turnover thresholds, the CCPC considered the following:

**i. The impact of recent inflation levels on the numbers of mergers notified under the current financial thresholds;**

Cumulative inflation for the period 2019 to 2024 was 20.5%, meaning that the cost of goods and services in the economy increased by approximately this much, while the threshold remained unchanged. This means that the turnover thresholds of businesses involved may have increased naturally over this period, and therefore these transactions are now more regularly meeting notification requirements where they would not previously have done so.

**ii. A comparison of financial thresholds across relevant European counterparts;**

Threshold levels in a number of comparable European countries with similar GNI were considered (see [Appendix 2](#)). Although caution is warranted when comparing financial thresholds across different jurisdictions due to differences in legal frameworks, the comparison shows that Ireland's aggregate turnover threshold falls below that of many of its European counterparts. Of the group considered, the mean aggregate and individual turnover thresholds are c. €88m and c. €15m respectively.

**iii. The likely impact of an uplift in the financial thresholds on the ability of the CCPC to review mergers which may result in a substantial lessening of competition ("SLC");**

There is a risk that increasing the financial thresholds could result in mergers no longer being notifiable to the CCPC and which would, if reviewed by the CCPC, lead the CCPC to form a view that the result of the merger would be to substantially lessen competition in markets for goods or services in the

State. However, the vast majority of mergers notified to the CCPC between 2019 and 2024 which resulted in an intervention would still fall to be notified under the proposed new thresholds.

Furthermore, as detailed earlier, the CCPC now has the statutory power to require the notification of mergers that do not meet the financial thresholds, where it considers that the merger may have an effect on competition on markets for goods and services in the State. This safeguard ensures that any mergers which may lead to an SLC but do not meet the revised financial thresholds may undergo a review by the CCPC.

**iv. The likely impact of an increase in the financial thresholds on costs to businesses.**

Increasing the financial thresholds will ensure that a proportion of the mergers which do not cause any competition concerns are not notified to the CCPC. This will have the consequence of saving the businesses involved the financial and resource costs involved in notifying a merger.

Based on the above recommendation to increase the aggregate turnover threshold to €100 million and the individual turnover threshold to €15 million, using 2024 as a base, 46% of the notifications received in 2024 would not be notifiable. The CCPC has estimated that the proposed uplift of the financial thresholds would result in a cost saving for businesses of approximately €1.8 million in 2024. This estimate is based on the notification fee of €8,000 per notification, plus estimates of the legal costs payable by businesses as a result of needing to notify a merger and engage with the CCPC merger review process.

## Key Proposals and Questions

The Department would welcome any submission from the public to assist the Minister in his consideration of the matter.

### Questions:

1. Should the aggregate turnover threshold level be amended, and if so, do you agree with the proposed amendment to €100 million? Please provide any information or data to support any alternate proposals.
2. Should the individual turnover threshold level be amended, and if so, do you agree with the proposed amendment to €15 million? Please provide any information or data to support any alternate proposals.
3. Should thresholds be increased on a more regular basis, having regard to the various factors, such as inflation, thresholds of other European countries etc.?

## How to Respond

**Deadline:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

**Email submissions to:** [competition@enterprise.gov.ie](mailto:competition@enterprise.gov.ie)

Please include your name, organisation (if applicable), and contact details. Briefly describe your interest in the subject matter.

## Publication and Data Protection

All submissions will be published on the Department's website. Information provided may be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. If any information is commercially sensitive, please identify and explain why.

Personal data will be processed in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## Appendix 1

During the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2024, a total of 362 notifications were notified to the CCPC (excludes media mergers). The analysis shows the number of mergers that were notified during this period that would not require notification under the various financial turnover thresholds.

Aggregate turnover threshold	Individual turnover threshold	Number of mergers notified that would not have been required to be notified	Percentage (%) of mergers notified that would not have been required to be notified
€75 million	€15 million	114	31.49%
	€20 million	163	45.03%
	€25 million	192	53.04%
€100 million	€15 million	154	42.54%
	€20 million	196	54.04%
	€25 million	218	60.22%

### Recommendation

On the basis of the above analysis, the CCPC has recommended to amend the aggregate turnover threshold to **€100 million**.

Furthermore, and noting that in the analysis underpinning the adopted 2019 uplift of the thresholds it was found that an aggregate threshold of six times the individual turnover threshold was typical on average, the CCPC has recommended to amend the individual turnover threshold to **€15 million**.

## Appendix 2

Country	GNI		Individual threshold	Aggregate threshold
	\$billion	€billion equivalent	€ million	€ million
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>\$419.13</b>	<b>€352</b>	<b>€10</b>	<b>€60</b>
Belgium	\$643.39	€540	€40	€100
Czechia	\$297.25	€250	€10	€62
Denmark	\$436.16	€366	€13	€121
Finland	\$297.23	€250	€10	€100
Norway	\$568.01	€477	€9	€88
Portugal	\$276.23	€232	€5	€100
Slovakia	\$123.67	€104	€14	€46
Sweden	\$637.39	€535	€19	€95
<b>Mean</b>			<b>€14</b>	<b>€86</b>
<b>Median</b>			<b>€10</b>	<b>€95</b>

Source: GNI: [European Union GNI | Historical Chart & Data](#); Threshold figures: [Getting the Deal Through, Merger Control 2024](#).

Note: Czechia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden thresholds converted to Euro for equivalency, and rounded to nearest €1m (conversion rate on 30 January 2026).