

[News story: CMA opens SSE Retail/Npower merger investigation](#)



SSE Retail and Npower propose to create a new company to serve their combined domestic retail customers.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) will now assess whether this deal could significantly reduce competition in the supply of energy to domestic customers in the UK.

The CMA has been discussing the deal with SSE Retail and Npower since it was announced. Now that the companies have provided the information necessary to start an investigation, the CMA has launched its review.

The CMA will investigate the merger on competition grounds, in line with its [merger guidance](#).

The deadline for the initial decision is 26 April 2018. Further details, including how interested parties can submit evidence, are available on the investigation [case page](#).

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[News story: Trade mission to India celebrates 70 years of NHS innovation](#)

Sir Malcolm Grant, Chair of NHS England, speaking at the India-UK Createch Summit

Demand for innovative healthcare solutions in the Indian healthcare system has never been higher. The 70 years of NHS innovation mission was designed to

show examples of exciting new approaches, systems and services.

Healthcare in India

India's healthcare market is estimated to [grow to US\\$280 billion by 2020](#) according to KPMG. The government health service spends only [1.4% of GDP](#) on healthcare service. The [4.7% of GDP](#) spent on healthcare overall reflects the out of pocket expenditure most Indians make.

Private medications and services are provided by some excellent leading healthcare companies as well as a fragmented collection of smaller providers of varying quality.

Innovative healthcare solutions are needed due to:

- the dramatic rise in non-communicable diseases (NCD's), especially diabetes and heart disease
- an ageing population

Healthcare UK mission

3 NHS Trusts and 11 UK healthcare companies took part in the mission, seeking commercial opportunities to work with the Indian healthcare industry. They were led by Sir Malcolm Grant, Chair of NHS England, Sarah Wilkinson, CEO of NHS Digital and Deborah Kobewka, Managing Director of Healthcare UK.

The 3 NHS trusts had innovative training and consultancy offers including:

Deborah Kobewka said of the event:

This was remarkably successful mission, supported by our VIPs, where carefully selected UK companies and NHS Trusts had specific requests for their services from most of the Indian healthcare companies we met in the 3 cities

Mission highlights

Highlights of the mission included joining the [India UK Createch 2018 Summit in Mumbai](#) addressed by HRH The Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex.

At this event, future creative technology in healthcare featured alongside the future of transport, space travel, music and film. Another highlight was meeting the Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare for Maharashtra, India's most popular state with over 114 million inhabitants.

Sir Malcolm Grant also met with the national Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and companion ministries to discuss the Indo UK Institute of Health's programme to build 11 major hospitals and medicities alongside up to 5,000 diagnostic and treatment clinics.

Response from India

The delegation met senior healthcare leaders from both private and government sectors in a series of round tables, seminars and networking receptions in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. The delegation met over 250 potential customers in the 3 cities and finished with a visit and discussion with the biggest of them all, Apollo Hospitals.

Each of the Indian delegates were very clear on which of the companies they wanted to pursue opportunities with and Healthcare UK is optimistic that some excellent collaborations and business ventures will be realised as a result.

Sir Malcolm Grant said:

As Britain celebrates its own historic landmark of the 70th Anniversary of the NHS on 5 July, I look forward to India-UK collaboration on healthcare being stronger than ever.

If you are an innovative healthcare system provider looking to develop operations overseas please contact us at Healthcare UK to discuss how we can help you.

[Press release: Natural doesn't mean safe – herbal medicines found to contain steroids](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is warning people who may have purchased a “natural” Chinese herbal medicine, Yiganerjing Cream, as a treatment for skin conditions to stop using it immediately as it has been found to contain an undisclosed steroid and two antifungal ingredients.

MHRA officials have been acting to stop the sale of this cream and have had it withdrawn from many websites and on-line market places but people may have purchased it in the past and still be using it.

Yiganerjing Cream is not a licensed medicine and has been marketed in the UK as a “natural” Chinese herbal medicine for the treatment of a range of skin conditions, most commonly eczema, psoriasis and rosacea.

Our analysis found the presence of the steroid clobetasol propionate. This steroid is the active ingredient in Prescription-Only Medicines used for the treatment of a range skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema. Creams containing steroids should be used sparingly and as directed by the

prescriber. It is contraindicated in children under 1 year of age.

We are also aware of the use, via a herbal clinic, of a product called Penny Orange Cream which has also been found to contain clobetasol propionate. While this product is no longer available, and we are not aware of its widespread use, it did contain an undisclosed steroid and should not be used.

If you are unsure about the safety of a medicine claiming to be “natural” or “herbal” you should check for a Marketing Authorisation (MA) or Product Licence (PL) number or [Traditional Herbal Registration \(THR\) number](#) / the THR logo. This means the product has been assessed by MHRA for safety and has been manufactured correctly. For more information, visit [NHS Choices](#).

Dr Chris Jones, Manager of the Medicines Borderline Section at MHRA said:

The sale of potent steroid creams directly to the public is illegal for good reason. If used without medical supervision these medicines can be dangerous.

Steroids must be prescribed by healthcare professionals who follow strict criteria when prescribing them and monitoring patients using them. They can suppress the skin’s response to infection, can cause long-term thinning of the skin, and if applied long term over a wide area, particularly in babies and children, can cause other medical problems.

Our advice to anyone who is using Yiganerjing Cream, particularly on young children and babies, is to discontinue use immediately. If you have any questions, please contact your healthcare professional.

If you are aware of Yiganerjing cream being sold, please report it to MHRA at Borderline_medicine@mhra.gov.uk.

[News story: New Advanced Maths Premium can open more doors for young people](#)

During a visit to Lilian Bayliss Technology School in London, Schools Standards Minister Nick Gibb and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Elizabeth Truss announced the Advanced Maths Premium, a new fund to help schools and colleges increase the number of students studying maths after GCSE.

Data shows that pupils who do well in maths at school earn higher wages, with men seeing a premium of 12.5% and women a 23.9% increase.

The premium will also support institutions to increase the number of girls and those from disadvantaged backgrounds taking advanced maths qualifications, to help equip Britain with the skills needed to boost the future economy. The £600 premium is equivalent to 15% of the base funding per student.

It follows a commitment from the Education Secretary to continue improving academic standards in order to deliver a truly world-class education, that inspires young people to make the most of their lives and gives them the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions, no matter where they live.

From September 2018, schools and colleges will receive an extra £600 premium for each additional pupil taking the one-year AS maths or the Core Maths qualification. This could mean £1,200 for each additional pupil who takes the two-year A level in maths or further maths.

While maths continues to be the most popular subject at A level, with almost 25% of pupils choosing to study it, there are almost three quarters of students with an A*-C in GCSE maths at age 16 who decide not to continue studying the subject.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Elizabeth Truss, said:

We know that maths powers our economy. And for individual students, choosing maths could add around 10% to their future earnings.

It is even more beneficial for women and I specifically want to encourage more girls to take maths and open up their future.

In many other advanced nations, pupils are encouraged to study maths beyond 16-years-old. The maths premium will help more students study maths for longer and put them in a great position to take up skilled jobs.

Schools Standards Minister Nick Gibb said:

Academic standards are rising in our schools, with 1.9 million more children in good or outstanding schools than in 2010.

Although maths remains the most popular subject at A level, this premium will open up the opportunity for even more young people to study advanced maths qualifications, providing them with the knowledge and skills for future success.

Our reforms to post 16 maths qualifications, have led to a more rigorous curriculum, enabling pupils to gain a deeper understanding of the subject. This will lead to better options for further study and training, including careers in engineering, computing, accountancy and design.

During the visit both Ministers saw first-hand how pupils are preparing for their upcoming maths exams and heard about young people's future plans to use their qualifications in the next stage of education or careers.

As set out in the Sir Adrian Smith review, there is an increasing demand for mathematics and quantitative skills in all levels of the labour market and the Royal Society has outlined maths as the key skill required by employers by 2030. This extra funding will increase maths provision and the quality of education that can be provided to pupils and therefore better preparing them for further study and future careers.

In addition to this, the Royal Society has discussed the importance of young people having a positive experience of learning mathematics and understanding its value and importance in order to apply what they have learned in future studies, employment and daily lives.

Frank Kelly, Chair of the Royal Society Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education, said:

The UK cannot prosper without a numerically literate population.

The Government has recognised that too few young people are studying maths after turning 16 and the increased funding announced today can be a step towards putting that right.

This funding boost comes during the Year of Engineering, which celebrates the world and wonder of engineering, which is inextricably linked to maths. It also forms an important part of the Industrial Strategy which is committed to boosting engineering across the UK, ensuring everyone has the skills needed to thrive in a modern economy.

[News story: Windcat 8 report published](#)



MAIB's report on the catastrophic engine failure, resulting in a fire on board the crew transfer vessel Windcat 8 off the Lincolnshire coast on 7

September 2017 is now published.

The report contains details of what happened, subsequent actions taken and recommendations made.

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