

Competition & Antitrust

Overview

Our Competition & Antitrust team, ranked Tier 1 by both Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners, is one of the largest dedicated practices in Ireland. Members of the team have acted in some of the most high-profile Irish, UK and EU merger control and antitrust cases in recent years.

Merger control is a particular strength, with our team advising on over one quarter of all merger notifications to the Irish Competition Commission (CCPC) in each of the last few years.

The team also advised on half of all Phase II cases in the jurisdiction since 2012. We advised on the first, and only, successful challenge to a prohibition decision. We advised on the first three 'media mergers' notified to the CCPC under the new media merger regime.

Our team has real expertise across the antitrust and regulatory spectrum. For example, we are currently advising the Irish government on the State aid and regulatory aspects of the National Broadband Plan.

In short, the team has developed a reputation for obtaining the right outcomes for clients in difficult cases.

*Dublin, London
& New York*

Key Contacts



Niall Collins

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Head of Competition
& Antitrust*

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Niall Collins, formerly of Ashurst and Latham & Watkins London, leads the team. He was recently included by Global Competition Review as one of the world's top competition lawyers under the age of 40 in their '40 under 40' feature.

Niall is also ranked in the top tier of competition advisers in Ireland by both Chambers and Legal 500.



Maureen O'Neill

*Partner, Competition
& Antitrust*

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Maureen O'Neill, formerly of Clifford Chance and Allen & Overy London, is also a partner in the team. Maureen has been involved in many high profile competition and sector investigations before the European Commission and national regulatory authorities in Ireland and the UK. Her practice has also involved significant litigation before the European General Court.



Merger Control

Our team has most recently advised:

- **Fane Valley Cooperative Society** before the European Commission in connection with its proposed joint venture with ABP Food Group
- **Liberty Global** on the acquisition of TV3 and, separately, on the acquisition of UTV Ireland by its subsidiary, Virgin Media
- **Valero Energy** in connection with the proposed acquisition by Topaz (Kendrick Investments) of Esso Ireland
- **McKesson Corporation** on its acquisition of the pharmaceutical distribution business of Irish FTSE 250 company, UDG Healthcare

Irish/EU Antitrust Law

We regularly advise clients in connection with Irish and EU antitrust law matters and have a particular expertise in the area of regulated markets across all industry sectors. Most recently we have advised:

- **The Department of Communications** on the regulatory and State aid aspects of the National Broadband Plan, a significant national project
- A large multinational in respect of the CCPC's antitrust investigation of the online accommodation booking sector
- **ComReg**, the communications regulator, on various regulatory and competition law matters, in particular in relation to wholesale communications markets and spectrum auctions
- A range of national and international clients across all sectors on all aspects of antitrust law including:
 - Joint ventures, horizontal cooperation agreements and strategic alliances

- Distribution and other commercial arrangements
- State aid and the grant of special of exclusive rights
- Abuse of dominance issues
- Training and compliance programmes, including dawn raid training

EU Law

We have developed broad and diverse expertise in the area of EU law and are frequently instructed on EU law matters including matters relating to free movement, parallel importing and intellectual property/competition interface issues.

What others say about us...

Our Competition & Antitrust team

"the advice is very practical and commercial"

Chambers & Partners Europe, 2015

Our Competition & Antitrust team

"effective and collaborative team"

Legal 500, 2015

For more advice and information on Competition & Antitrust please contact one of our team.

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