STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1973 No. 1879

FAIR TRADING

The Restriction of Merger (No. 4) Order 1973

Made - - -	13*th November* 1973
Laid before Parliament	13*th November* 1973
Coming into Operation	14*th November* 1973

Whereas the Secretary of State in exercise of powers conferred on him by sections 69(2) and 75 of the Fair Trading Act 1973(**a**) has referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report the matter of the proposed acquisition by London and County Securities Group Limited of Inveresk Group Limited:

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State with a view to preventing action which may prejudice the reference or impede the taking of any action under the Fair Trading Act 1973 which may be warranted by the Commission's Report on the reference and in exercise of powers conferred on him by section 74(1)(*d*) of, and paragraph 12 of Schedule 8 to, that Act hereby orders as follows:—

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Restriction of Merger (No. 4) Order 1973 and shall come into operation on 14th November 1973.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(**b**) shall apply to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. It shall be unlawful for London and County Securities Group Limited or any subsidiary thereof to acquire any shares or any interest in shares of Inveresk Group Limited if such acquisition would or might result in London and County Securities Group Limited and Inveresk Group Limited becoming interconnected bodies corporate:

Provided that this Article shall not apply to anything done in pursuance of a legally enforceable agreement to acquire shares made before the commencement of this Order other than an agreement made in pursuance of any general offer addressed to the members of Inveresk Group Limited by London and County Securities Limited on behalf of London and County Securities Group Limited.

Geoffrey Howe,
Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs,
Department of Trade and Industry.

13th November 1973.

(**a**) 1973 c. 41. (**b**) 1889 c. 63.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order imposes a standstill on any acquisition by London and County Securities Group Limited or its subsidiaries of shares of Inveresk Group Limited which would or might result in Inveresk Group Limited becoming a subsidiary of London and County Securities Group Limited. The proposed merger of these two companies has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

An exemption is provided for any acquisition of shares in pursuance of an agreement made before the commencement of this Order other than an agreement resulting from a general offer to acquire shares of Inveresk Group Limited made by London and County Securities Limited on behalf of London and County Securities Group Limited.

The Order, unless previously revoked, will cease to have effect—

(*a*) 40 days after the report of the Commission on the proposed merger is laid before Parliament; or

(*b*) on the failure of the Commission to report within the period allowed.

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