

**FORM 6-K**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**Report of Foreign Private Issuer  
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 under  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the month ended January, 2012

**ICON plc**  
(Registrant's name)

0-29714  
(Commission file number)

South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Ireland  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Brendan Brennan, CFO  
South County Business Park Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Ireland.  
Brendan.Brennan@iconplc.com  
0011-353-1-291-2000

(Name, telephone number, email and/or facsimile number and address of Company contact person)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes  No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):82 **N/A**

---

**EXHIBIT LIST**

Exhibit      Description

99.1            Icon plc Press Release dated January 9, 2012.

---

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**ICON plc**

Date: January 9, 2012

/s/ Brendan Brennan  
Brendan Brennan  
Chief Financial Officer

## ICON Selected by Shire plc's Specialty Pharmaceuticals division as Global Strategic Partner for Clinical Research and Central Laboratory Services

DUBLIN--(BUSINESS WIRE)--January 9, 2012--**ICON plc, (NASDAQ: ICLR; ISIN:IE0005711209)**, a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries, today announced that it has signed a strategic partnership with Shire Specialty Pharmaceuticals to serve as the sole global provider of central laboratory services and one of two strategic partners for clinical development services.

As a partner for clinical development, ICON will provide Shire with a full range of services including site and country feasibility, ethics and regulatory submissions, clinical trial monitoring, project management, site and study team support, medical management and medical data review. Shire will also utilise ICON Central Laboratories' extensive test menu from its global network of laboratories.

"We are proud that Shire Specialty Pharmaceuticals has selected ICON as a global partner and it is yet another endorsement of ICON's expertise in operating under strategic partnership models," commented Ciaran Murray, CEO, ICON plc. "ICON's success is based on the right blend of development services and global testing facilities, all of which are underpinned by robust processes and innovative technology. We look forward to building on our successful relationship with Shire to help them realise efficiencies as they seek to bring new products to market."

### About ICON plc

ICON plc is a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries. The Company specialises in the strategic development, management and analysis of programs that support clinical development - from compound selection to Phase I-IV clinical studies. ICON currently has around 8,500 employees, operating from 79 locations in 38 countries.

Further information is available at [www.iconplc.com](http://www.iconplc.com)

---

## Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

*This release contains, and our officers and representatives may from time to time make, "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbour provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as: "anticipate," "intend," "plan," "expect," "strategy" and similar references to future periods. Forward-looking statements are neither historical facts nor assurances of future performance. Instead, they are based only on our current beliefs, expectations and assumptions regarding the future of our business, future plans and strategies, anticipated events and trends, the economy and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict and many of which are outside of our control. Our actual results may differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Therefore, you should not rely on any of these forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements include, among others, general economic and financial conditions; the extent to which we are successful in implementing our strategy, gaining new, long-term relationships with customers and retaining existing ones; the risk of competition on us and on our industry; developments and changes in laws and regulations; and such other factors as discussed in Part I, Item 3 "Risk Factors" in our Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010. Any forward-looking statement made by us in this release is based only on information currently available to us and speaks only as of the date on which it is made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.*

ICON/ICLR-F

CONTACT:

**ICON Investor Contacts**

Investor Relations

1-888-381-7923

or

Sam Farthing, VP Investor Relations

+ 353 -1-291-2251

or

**ICON Media Contacts**

Rosie Allan /Genevieve Tuck

at Weber Shandwick

Tel: +44-020-7067-0000