

**MARKET INQUIRY INTO SUPPLY OF BULK LIQUEFIELD
PETROLEUM GAS FOR DOMESTIC USE**

**NOTICE OF PROVISIONAL FINDINGS MADE UNDER RULE 10.3 OF THE
COMPETITION COMMISSION'S RULES OF PROCEDURE**

- 1) On 5 July 2004, the Office of Fair Trading ("the OFT"), in exercise of its duty under section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002 ("the Act"), referred to the Competition Commission ("the Commission") the supply of domestic bulk LPG. The OFT, in exercise of its powers under section 135 of the Enterprise Act 2002, varied the terms of reference on 20 October 2004, to refer to the supply of 'bulk LPG for domestic use' (which we refer to as domestic bulk LPG).

Provisional findings

- 2) The Commission inquiry group ("the Group") appointed to consider this reference has provisionally found, on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 134(1) of the Act, that there are features of the relevant markets, either alone or in combination with each other, that prevent, restrict or distort competition in the supply of domestic bulk LPG in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, having an adverse effect on competition.
- 3) The Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which is attached to this notice, and are summarised in the executive summary of the provisional findings report (see note (i) below).

The next steps

- 4) The Group now invites interested parties to submit reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
- 5) These reasons in writing should be received by the Group no later than Friday 23 September 2005.
- 6) The Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.
- 7) The Group is also publishing a notice of the actions which it considers might be taken by the Commission to remedy the adverse effects provisionally identified, comments upon which should also be received in writing no later than Friday 23 September 2005.

Signed



Peter Freeman
Group Chairman

23 August 2005

Notes

- (i) A copy of this notice and the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC web site on 23 August 2005. The published version of the provisional findings report shall not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.