

GROCERIES MARKET INVESTIGATION

Appointment of consultants

The Competition Commission (CC) has appointed Infotech Ltd (Infotech), an IT and business consultant, with specialist expertise and experience providing GIS (Geographic Information Systems) solutions, to advise the CC on drive-time software package(s) and associated databases to be used for the purposes of determining the drive-times between controlled land sites and relevant stores in the local market.

Infotech will perform a number of tests agreed with the CC on each of the drive-time packages and the associated databases to assist the CC to decide which package best delivers appropriate drive-times and provides a cost-effective package. The decision on which combination of package(s) to be used will be solely taken by the CC. The drive-time packages to be tested will be those presently used by the retailers and the OFT. The tests that Infotech will perform will take account of the submissions already received from grocery retailers.

As well as experience in providing routing technology software selection, design and implementation services to public and private organizations, Infotech also have technological knowledge, gained from the development of their own proprietorial routing software. The CC will make use of this technical expertise, but Infotech's software will not be evaluated and will not be considered for selection.

The CC will consult on the selected software package(s) at the same time as the consultation on the controlled land order. This consultation is likely to begin in January 2009.