

**MARKET INVESTIGATION INTO THE SUPPLY OF GROCERIES  
BY RETAILERS IN THE UK**

**Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 10.3  
of the Competition Commission Rules of Procedure**

1. On 9 May 2006, the Office of Fair Trading referred the supply of groceries by retailers in the UK to the Competition Commission (CC) for investigation under section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act). We are required to publish our final report by 8 May 2008.

**Provisional findings**

2. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has provisionally found, on the statutory questions that 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 connection with the supply or acquisition of groceries by retailers and hence that there is an adverse effect on competition within the meaning of section 134(2) of the Act.
3. The Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which is attached to this notice, and are summarized in the summary of the provisional findings report (see note below).

**The next steps**

4. Parties are now invited to provide the Group with their 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 should be received by the Group no later than Friday, 30 November 2007.
6. The Group will have regard to any such reasons provided in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.

*(Signed)* PETER FREEMAN  
*Group Chairman*  
31 October 2007

*Note:* A copy of this notice and the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC website on 31 October 2007. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.