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Ref. DN/JL/Fair trading

Ms A Jolly
Inquiry Secretary
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London WC1B 4AD

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Somerfield/Morrison Stores

I note in the statement of issues on this matter that you ask whether it is appropriate to distinguish between one-stop shops, mid range stores and convenience stores in assessing the effect of the acquisition.

I think that there is a general issue regarding the way the larger multiples are dominating both the superstores and latterly the convenience markets which are presently considered as separate markets. The dominance of the multiples in purchasing power and saturation is an obstacle to fair competition and could make independent and co-operative retailing unviable. For instance Tesco now control nearly 30% of the grocery market.

I strongly support the viewpoint that superstores and convenience stores should be considered as one grocery retailing market and fair trading rules applied.

I should be grateful if you would send me a copy the provisional findings of the inquiry in due course.

Yours sincerely

Dr Doug Naysmith MP