

Dear All

I am writing as principal of a UK based record company (Ninja Tune Ltd) and as director of UK record companies' trade association (Association of Independent Music).

I urge you to include non-food items in your investigation and in particular music CDs.

The four large supermarket chains now account for 28% of the UK retail music market. (And 48% of chart album sales.) As you may know the range of music they carry is very small (little more than the Top 30 album titles). They are selling music cheaply and as a loss-leader in many cases and as a result making it hard for specialist music shops such as HMV, Virgin and independents to compete. If we lose music specialist retailers on the high street the choice of music available to consumers on the high street will be much reduced. I therefore urge you to investigate whether the supermarkets are competing fairly in this area.

Regards

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