

**REFERENCE RELATING TO THE COMPLETED ACQUISITION
BY WOOLWORTHS GROUP PLC OF
BERTRAM GROUP LIMITED**

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

1. On 3 April 2007, the Office of Fair Trading, in exercise of its duty under section 22(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) and its power under section 35(6) of the Act, referred to the Competition Commission (CC) the completed acquisition by Woolworths Group PLC of Bertram Group Limited for investigation and report within a period ending on 17 September 2007.

Provisional findings

2. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 35(1) of the Act:
 - (a) a relevant merger situation has been created; and
 - (b) the creation of that situation has not resulted, nor may be expected to result, in a substantial lessening of competition in the market for the supply of books to retailers (either supermarkets or other retailers) or in the supply of books to libraries in the UK.
3. The Group's reasons are set out in the provisional findings report, a summary of which is attached to this notice. A copy of the provisional findings report will be published on the CC website (see note (i) below).

The next steps

4. Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is 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 14 August 2007.
6. The Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.



Diana Guy
Group Chairman
24 July 2007

Notes:

- (i) A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC website on 24 July. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings

report on its website by 31 July 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.

- (ii) Comments should be made in writing to:

Marjorie Davies,
Inquiry Secretary, Woolworths/Bertram,
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD

or by email to: marjorie.davies@cc.gsi.gov.uk