

MARKET INQUIRY INTO SUPPLY OF HOME CREDIT

Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 10.3 of the Competition Commission Rules of Procedure 2006

1. On 20 December 2004, the Office of Fair Trading (the OFT), in exercise of its duty under section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), referred to the Competition Commission (the CC) the supply of home credit in the UK.

Provisional findings

2. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has provisionally found, on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 134(1) of the Act, that there are features of the relevant market, either alone or in combination with each other, that prevent, restrict or distort competition in connection with the supply of home credit and hence that there is an adverse effect on competition within the meaning of section 134(2).
3. The Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, and are summarized in the executive summary of the provisional findings report which is attached to this notice (see note (i)).

The next steps

4. The Group now invites interested parties to submit 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 in writing should be received by the Group no later than Friday, 2 June 2006.
6. The Group will have regard to any such reasons in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.
7. The Group is also publishing a notice of the actions which it considers might be taken by the CC to remedy the adverse effects provisionally identified, comments upon which should also be received in writing no later than Friday 2 June 2006.



Peter Freeman
Group Chairman
27 April 2006

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Notes

- (a) A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC website on 27 April 2006. The provisional findings report will be published on the CC website on 28 April 2006. It shall not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.