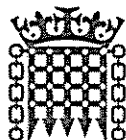


MARK PRISK MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

020 7219 6358

09 May 2006

Dear *Mr. Freeman*

**Re: Proposal to refer grocery market to Competition Commission**

As Shadow Minister for Business and Enterprise, I am writing with regard to the referral today, by the OFT, of the grocery market to the Competition Commission. It will of course be important that everyone concerned has full confidence in the outcome of the Commission inquiry. I would therefore be grateful for your assurance that the Commission will undertake a comprehensive and thorough inquiry, to cover not just planning but also, for example, an investigation into possible abuses of buying power, and the advance of the supermarkets into the convenience store market.

I should also be grateful for your assurance that consideration will be given to retaining the anonymity of those giving evidence, as concerns have been expressed to me about the risk of retaliatory or bullying tactics by larger players in the industry, against those who may raise points unfavourable to them.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Prisk MP**

Peter Freeman Esq  
Chairman, Competition Commission  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
LONDON WC1B 4AD

Member of Parliament for Hertford and Stortford  
[www.markprisk.com](http://www.markprisk.com)