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From: tom@foodethicscouncil.org [mailto:tom@foodethicscouncil.org]

Sent: Friday, June 02, 2006 8:49 AM

To: Tim Oyler

Subject: Groceries investigation

Dear Tim

I am glad that the Competition Commission will be investigating the groceries market.

The Food Ethics Council's 2005 project on 'Power in the food system: understanding trends and improving accountability', revealed considerable concern among a wide range of stakeholders about the purchasing power of major retailers. Stakeholders were concerned about the impact on suppliers as well as on independent retailers - unless the Commission's investigation addresses this aspect, then it will surely miss out a crucial part of the puzzle.

Likewise, while the Food Ethics Council's concern is with food and agriculture, it would seem contrived for the Commission's investigation to focus exclusively on groceries, if very similar conditions arise in non-grocery markets and the same major retailers are involved.

You can read more about the Food Ethics Council's work on 'Power in the food system' at:

- <http://foodethicscouncil.org/node/104> and

- <http://foodethicscouncil.org/node/105>

It was quite a modest project but it may be of interest.

I look forward to news of the Commission's progress with this investigation.

Kind regards

Tom MacMillan

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