

## **Submission from a Driver Recruitment Company**

**16 October 2006**

Dear Sirs

We supply temporary workers to industry. Up until a couple of years ago if we contacted a company that we were hoping to supply our service to we would normally be asked for our charging structure. Nowadays, the large companies including the major supermarkets tell us what we are going to charge them.

One often hears about how businesses in Third World countries are being exploited by major companies who will only pay a certain amount for their products. This practice now exists here in the UK.

We could not get together with other companies thereby increasing our power and agree to set prices because this would be a cartel and this is illegal. The practice that I am describing is like a reverse cartel. The major companies are so powerful they can tell their suppliers how much they should charge. This, I believe, doesn't apply only to our business but to all of the suppliers of major companies. This practice is not a fair and free economy and is surely ultimately bad for the economy of the country.

I would welcome your thoughts.

Yours sincerely