



News Release

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CC PUBLISHES SOMERFIELD UNDERTAKINGS

The Competition Commission (CC) has published the undertakings it has accepted from Somerfield Ltd (Somerfield), which was formerly registered as Somerfield plc. The undertakings require Somerfield to divest stores identified in the CC's report of 2 September 2005.

In the report the CC concluded that the completed acquisition by Somerfield plc of 115 stores and other assets from Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc (Morrison's) may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in 12 local grocery retail markets in Great Britain.

The agreed undertakings therefore commit Somerfield to selling 12 stores to purchasers approved by the CC. In seven towns it must sell the stores acquired from Morrison's: these are stores in Filey, Middlesbrough Linthorpe, Newark, Pocklington, Poole Bearwood, South Shields and Whitburn (Scotland). In Johnstone, Peebles and Yarm, it can sell either the acquired store or a specified existing Somerfield store. In Kelso and Littlehampton, where it has already closed its existing store, it must sell the closed store and can continue to operate the acquired store.

The notice of acceptance and a copy of the undertakings, including details of the sales process, is available on the CC website at:

www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2005/somerfield/index.htm

Notes for editors

1. The CC report published on 2 September 2005 which sets out the CC's conclusions on the substantial lessening of competition and appropriate remedies may be found at:

www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2005/somerfield/index.htm

2. On 29 September 2005 Somerfield plc applied to the Competition Appeal Tribunal for judicial review of the CC's decision. The application was dismissed on 13 February 2006.

3. The CC, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 41(2) and 82 of the Enterprise Act 2002, may accept undertakings for the purpose of remedying, mitigating or preventing the adverse effects which may be expected to result from a substantial lessening of competition it has identified.
4. Enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor on 020 7271 0242 (email: rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk).