

GROCERIES REMITTAL

Disclosure of further interests for CC staff

The Competition Commission (CC) notes the following interests in relation to the above investigation, which are in addition to those disclosed in relation to the Groceries inquiry:

Clare Potter

1. In addition to the interest identified at the commencement of the inquiry, Clare Potter's brother is a partner in the solicitor's firm Morgan Cole from whom we have received representations, on behalf of a client, in relation to the proposed Controlled Land Order. Ms Potter's brother has no involvement in this matter.
2. The CC is satisfied that the impartiality of the inquiry will not be affected by the above.

Dr Alison Oldale

3. Dr Alison Oldale, recently appointed as Chief Economist at the CC, was until 30 May 2009 a Director at LECG, an economics consultancy. LECG advised a grocery retailer on some aspects of the Groceries inquiry, although Dr Oldale herself did not do any work for this client. LECG has also advised other clients in the grocery retail sector. Dr Oldale will not have a day-to-day role in the Groceries inquiry (including the reconsideration of the competition test), but has a general responsibility to oversee the work of the economics team.
4. The CC is satisfied that the impartiality of the inquiry will not be affected by this interest.

01.07.09

Disclosures of interest: Groceries remittal

Staff interests

Disclosure of interest for Dr Francesca Sala - 17.09.09

1. Dr Francesca Sala is an economist working in the Competition Commission (CC) who has recently commenced work on the Groceries Market Investigation Remittal process. Her husband is employed by Frontier Economics, which is an advisor to a party to the Groceries Inquiry. He worked on behalf of that party during the Groceries Inquiry from November 2006 until March 2007.

2. The CC has considered therefore whether there could be a potential conflict of interest in Dr Sala working on the remittal process. The CC has concluded that, as her husband has not worked on the Groceries Inquiry for almost two and half years and also that the particular aspect of the Inquiry on which he was advising is no longer in dispute, there are no grounds to sustain a charge of a conflict of interest and that Dr Francesca Sala should therefore continue to work on the remittal process.