

**REFERENCE RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION BY TESCO PLC  
OF THE CO-OPERATIVE GROUP (CWS) LIMITED'S STORE IN SLOUGH**

**Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 10.3  
of the Competition Commission Rules of Procedure**

1. On 19 April 2007, the Office of Fair Trading, in exercise of its duty under section 22(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) and its power under section 35(6) of the Act, referred to the Competition Commission (CC) the completed acquisition by Tesco plc of a supermarket formerly operated by the Co-operative Group (CWS) Limited in Uxbridge Road, Slough, for investigation and report within a period ending on 3 October 2007.
2. The period for investigation and report was extended by the CC to 28 November 2007.

**Provisional findings**

3. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 35(1) of the Act:
  - (a) a relevant merger situation has been created; and
  - (b) the creation of that situation has resulted or may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within the relevant market.
4. The Group's reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, which is attached to this notice, and are summarized in the summary of the provisional findings report (see note below).

**The next steps**

5. Tesco plc is now invited to provide the Group with its reasons in writing as to why these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
6. These reasons should be received by the Group no later than 19 October 2007.
7. The Group will have regard to any such reasons provided in making its final decisions on the statutory questions and actions.
8. The Group will shortly send to Tesco plc and publish a notice of the actions which it considers might be taken by the CC to remedy the substantial lessening of competition provisionally identified, or any adverse effect which has resulted from, or may be expected to result from, that substantial lessening of competition.

*(Signed)* PETER FREEMAN  
Group Chairman  
21 September 2007

*Note:* A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the CC website on 21 September 2007. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its website by 21 September 2007. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act.