

30 November

Dear Amy,

I note that the CMA did not explore further the concerns expressed by our Members (representing over 5,400 independent forecourt retailers across the UK or 70% of the total) before announcing the provisional approval of the proposed acquisition of Booker Retail Partners by Tesco plc earlier this month.

Our Members were astonished that the CMA did not require full disposal or even part disposal of their One Stop convenience store chain.

Since the CMA announcement, there have been significant and unexpected developments in the wholesale grocery and CTN sector as described in the attached article from the Daily Telegraph. The move by creditors which forced Palmer & Harvey into administration this week has very serious ramifications for the entire convenience sector.

It appears that if the Tesco acquisition proposal is allowed to continue, the independent convenience sector will only have 4 major grocery and CTN wholesalers viz : Tesco (Budgens, Londis, Premier and Family Shopper), Co-op (Costcutter, Mace, Kwiksave, Super Shop and Simply Fresh), Spar and Bestway. With Tesco also competing strongly with our Members at the retail outlet using Tesco Express and One Stop brands, the concerns over lack of competition has increased yet further.

The potential for price inflation through manipulated supply is the real issue and this will be to **consumer detriment almost immediately.**

We must insist that, due to the significant market changes taking place since the CMA's earlier announcement, the Tesco/BRP proposal is fully re-visited. To fail with such as task must be a breach of CMA's responsibility.

Kind regards

Brian Madderson
Chairman – Petrol Retailers Association



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