

Waitrose & Partners' comments on the CMA's Provisional Findings

Waitrose & Partners welcomes the CMA's provisional findings that the proposed merger could lead to a substantial lessening of competition in the UK retail market, which could result in higher retail prices and poorer choice, quality and service for the consumer.

We are pleased that the CMA shares a number of concerns that Waitrose & Partners highlighted in our previous submissions. We remain of the view that should the merger go ahead, the possibility of having two large national players representing well over half of the groceries market, with a significant presence in GM and Fuel markets, would fundamentally shift the dynamics of the retail sector, substantially lessening competition at both a national and local level, for both in-store and online activities.