

## Leading wholesalers oppose Booker-Tesco merger in joint letter

By Liz Wells in Industry News 5th October 2017

Seven of the UK's leading wholesalers have written a joint letter to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) urging it to block the Tesco-Booker merger.



The managing directors of Bestway, Bidfood, Confex UK, Landmark, Spar UK, Sugro UK and Today's co-signed the letter, which was submitted to the [CMA as part of its ongoing Phase 2 investigation](#).

The letter refutes the claim that [Tesco's acquisition of the Booker Group](#) will enhance competition in the UK and promote consumer interests.

The group has told the CMA of the consequences if Booker acquires Tesco's unrivalled power in grocery procurement, saying it would harm suppliers, and result in higher prices and less choice for independent retailers and consumers.

They added that Tesco, with its ability to target lower prices where it faces local competition, would also have the power to force out of business all those independent retailers with which it competes locally.

“This merger will not just result in a substantial lessening of competition but in a complete restructuring of the wholesale and retail of groceries in the convenience and foodservice sectors, to the unquestioned detriment of consumers,” the letter concluded.

It is expected that the CMA will issue its provisional decision towards the end of October 2017 and a final decision in December.

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