



**ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP**  
**MARKET STUDIES PROJECT**

**MARKET STUDIES INFORMATION STORE**

**JURISDICTION:**

**Ireland - The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission**

**UPDATED: DECEMBER 2015**

## Information Store

### Ireland- The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

<b>Sector:</b>	Transport											
<b>Market:</b>	Ports	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>End Date:</b>	2013	Competition Enforcement	Consumer Enforcement	Consumer Education	Business Education	Voluntary Business Compliance	Voluntary Business Action	Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law	Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure	Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy	Referral to Third Parties	No Problems Found
<b>Duration:</b>	12 months <sup>1</sup>											
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation requested a study of competition in the Irish Ports Sector											
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>												
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	As an island nation, Ireland is heavily dependent on its ports. Any restrictions on competition in the ports sector can increase the cost of trade and damage Ireland's competitiveness.											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.ccpc.ie/competition-irish-ports">http://www.ccpc.ie/competition-irish-ports</a>											

<sup>1</sup> The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission of Ireland was established in October 2014 following the merger of the Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency. The Commission is responsible for enforcing competition and consumer law in Ireland.

### Information Store

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Professions</b>											
<b>Market:</b>	<b>General Medical Practitioner Services</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>End Date:</b>	Published 2010											
<b>Duration:</b>												
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	The Competition Authority (now the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission) carried out a series of studies on Competition in Professional Services in Ireland. The studies covered eight professions in the construction, legal and medical sectors.	<b>Competition Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Education</b>	<b>Business Education</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Action</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b>	<b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b>	<b>Referral to Third Parties</b>	<b>No Problems Found</b>
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	<p>The Competition Authority and Consumer Protection Commission is using these studies to:</p> <p>(a) examine regulations and practices that potentially restrict competition            (b) have anti-competitive restrictions abolished or replaced;            (c) identify behaviour which, although not necessarily breaching competition law, nevertheless inhibits competition.</p>											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.cpc.ie/report-general-medical-practitioners">http://www.cpc.ie/report-general-medical-practitioners</a>											

### Information Store

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Retail Sector (Excluding Food And Drink Only Market Studies)</b>											
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Import and distribution of products for retail – mainly in groceries, pharmaceuticals and clothing</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>End Date:</b>	May 2009	<b>Competition Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Education</b> <b>Business Education</b> <b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b> <b>Voluntary Business Action</b> <b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b> <b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b> <b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b> <b>Referral to Third Parties</b> <b>No Problems Found</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Duration:</b>	9 weeks											
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment formally requested the study, using her powers under the legislation.											
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	Retailers had alleged that the substantially higher retail prices in the Republic of Ireland, as compared to Northern Ireland, were due to suppliers charging them more than their Northern counterparts.											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.cpc.ie/retail-related-import-and-distribution-study">http://www.cpc.ie/retail-related-import-and-distribution-study</a>											

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Professions</b>												
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Veterinary Services</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>											
<b>End Date:</b>	2008	<b>Competition Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Education</b> <b>Business Education</b> <b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b> <b>Voluntary Business Action</b> <b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b> <b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b> <b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b> <b>Referral to Third Parties</b> <b>No Problems Found</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Duration:</b>													
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	The Competition Authority carried out a series of studies in a major study on Competition in Professional Services in Ireland												
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is using these studies to:  (a) examine regulations and practices that potentially restrict competition (b) have anti-competitive restrictions abolished or replaced; (c) identify behaviour which, although not necessarily breaching competition law, nevertheless inhibits competition.												
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.cpc.ie/competition-veterinary-profession">http://www.cpc.ie/competition-veterinary-profession</a>												

**Information Store**

<b>Sector:</b>	Groceries (Food and drink)											
<b>Market:</b>	Grocery Retailing and Wholesaling	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>End Date:</b>	2008	Competition Enforcement	Consumer Enforcement	Consumer Education	Business Education	Voluntary Business Compliance	Voluntary Business Action	Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law	Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure	Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy	Referral to Third Parties	No Problems Found
<b>Duration:</b>	2 years											
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	Required by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment											
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	<p>Following the Government's decision to abolish the Groceries Order in March 2006, the Competition Authority was required to monitor the structure of the grocery trade on an ongoing basis in order to see how it responded to the new legislative environment.</p> <p>The Competition Authority subsequently initiated the Grocery Monitor Project. This consisted of three reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Description of the Structure and Operation of Grocery Retailing and Wholesaling in Ireland: 2001 to 2006 which provides a description of the market structure at the wholesale and retail levels of the Irish grocery sector.</li> <li>• Price Trends in the Irish Retail Grocery Sector: A Description of the Evolution of Retail Grocery Prices between 2001 and 2007 which considers the impact of the removal of the Groceries Order by examining the evolution of the aggregate retail grocery price trends since 2001.</li> <li>• The Retail Planning System as applied to the Retail Grocery Sector: 2001 to 2006 which examines whether the retail planning system makes it difficult for new retailers to enter the Irish grocery market, and for existing retailers to expand.</li> </ul>											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.ccpc.ie/monitoring-irish-groceries-market">http://www.ccpc.ie/monitoring-irish-groceries-market</a>											

### Information Store

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Private Health Insurance</b>											
<b>End Date:</b>	2007	<b>Competition Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Education</b>	<b>Business Education</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Action</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b>	<b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b>	<b>Referral to Third Parties</b>	<b>No Problems Found</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	1 year											
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>												
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	In 2006, the Minister for Health and Children requested the Competition Authority and the Health Insurance Authority to report on 'further measures to encourage competition in the health insurance market and the strategy or strategies which might be adopted in order to create greater balance in the share of the market held by competing insurers'.											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.cpc.ie/competition-private-health-insurance-market">http://www.cpc.ie/competition-private-health-insurance-market</a>											

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Professions</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Dentists</b>											
<b>End Date:</b>	2007	<b>Competition Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Education</b>	<b>Business Education</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Action</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b>	<b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b>	<b>Referral to Third Parties</b>	<b>No Problems Found</b>
<b>Duration:</b>												
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	The Competition Authority carried out a series of studies on Competition in Professional Services in Ireland											
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is using these studies to:  (a) examine regulations and practices that potentially restrict competition (b) have anti-competitive restrictions abolished or replaced; (c) identify behaviour which, although not necessarily breaching competition law, nevertheless inhibits competition.											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.cpc.ie/study-dental-profession">http://www.cpc.ie/study-dental-profession</a>											

### Information Store

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Professions</b>											
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Solicitors and Barristers</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>End Date:</b>	2006	<b>Competition Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Education</b> <b>Business Education</b> <b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b> <b>Voluntary Business Action</b> <b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b> <b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b> <b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b> <b>Referral to Third Parties</b> <b>No Problems Found</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Duration:</b>												
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	The Competition Authority carried out a series of studies on Competition in Professional Services in Ireland											
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is using these studies to: (a) examine regulations and practices that potentially restrict competition (b) have anti-competitive restrictions abolished or replaced; (c) identify behaviour which, although not necessarily breaching competition law, nevertheless inhibits competition.											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.ccp.ie/study-legal-professions">http://www.ccp.ie/study-legal-professions</a>											

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Professions</b>											
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Optometrists</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>End Date:</b>	2006	<b>Competition Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Enforcement</b> <b>Consumer Education</b> <b>Business Education</b> <b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b> <b>Voluntary Business Action</b> <b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b> <b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b> <b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b> <b>Referral to Third Parties</b> <b>No Problems Found</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Duration:</b>												
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	The Competition Authority carried out a series of studies on Competition in Professional Services in Ireland											
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is using these studies to: (a) examine regulations and practices that potentially restrict competition (b) have anti-competitive restrictions abolished or replaced; (c) identify behaviour which, although not necessarily breaching competition law, nevertheless inhibits competition.											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.ccp.ie/study-optometry-profession">http://www.ccp.ie/study-optometry-profession</a>											

### Information Store

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Professions</b>											
<b>Market:</b>	<b>Architects</b>	<b>Range of Possible Outcomes</b>										
<b>End Date:</b>	2006	<b>Competition Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Enforcement</b>	<b>Consumer Education</b>	<b>Business Education</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Compliance</b>	<b>Voluntary Business Action</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government for Changes in the Law</b>	<b>Recommendations to Government to Change Market Structure</b>	<b>Recommendations for Changes to Government Policy</b>	<b>Referral to Third Parties</b>	<b>No Problems Found</b>
<b>Duration:</b>												
<b>Source of idea for study:</b>	The Competition Authority carried out a series of studies on Competition in Professional Services in Ireland											
<b>Outcome (tick relevant columns):</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for study (what were the problems)?</b>	<p>The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is using these studies to:</p> <p>(a) examine regulations and practices that potentially restrict competition</p> <p>(b) have anti-competitive restrictions abolished or replaced;</p> <p>(c) identify behaviour which, although not necessarily breaching competition law, nevertheless inhibits competition.</p>											
<b>Link to report:</b>	<a href="http://www.ccpic.ie/study-architectural-profession">http://www.ccpic.ie/study-architectural-profession</a>											