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13 July 2004

Mr Andy Lau  
Clerk to Panel  
Legislative Council Panel on Economic Services  
Legislative Council  
Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

(By Fax: 2869 6794)

Dear Mr Lau,

**Panel on Economic Services  
Minutes of Meeting held on 23 February 2004**

**Proposal to commission an independent survey by  
tertiary institutions among supermarket suppliers**

I am writing in response to the proposal in paragraph 20 of the captioned minutes of meeting, suggesting the Administration to commission tertiary institutions to undertake an independent survey among suppliers on alleged anti-competitive conduct in the supermarket sector.

Having considered the proposal carefully, we are of the view that it would be more effective for suppliers to raise their concerns or complaints directly with the Government, which will handle the information furnished by the suppliers, and follow up with relevant supermarkets as appropriate. We also note that the Consumer Council has issued a letter on 8 April 2004 to suppliers, copied to you, encouraging them to reflect matters of concern to the Secretary of the Competition Policy Advisory Group.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Clara Tang)  
for Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

c.c. SEDL (Attn: Mr Alex Wong)