

Announcement of public consultation on draft guidelines for grocery goods regulations

Background

Section 63B (5) of the Consumer Protection Act 2007 (as inserted by the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014) provides that, after the Minister makes regulations under the Act and having consulted with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) and such other persons as he or she considers appropriate, he or she may prepare and make guidelines for the purpose of providing practical guidance as regards the operation of, and compliance with, the grocery goods regulations.

The Minister has signed the [Consumer Protection Act 2007 \(Grocery Goods Undertakings\) Regulations 2016](#) into law and they will come into operation on 30 April 2016. The [draft guidelines](#) are now being circulated to stakeholders to allow them an opportunity to comment on their content before the regulations enter into force. The guidelines have been drafted so as to enable users of the regulations to get a clear idea about what is catered for in each regulation but they are not a legal interpretation of the regulations nor should they be considered to be so.

Closing Date

Submissions on the draft guidelines are requested no later than close of business on Monday, 29 February 2016. Submissions should be marked “Guidelines for Grocery Goods Regulations consultation” and can either be e-mailed to conspol@djei.ie or sent in hard copy to the following address:

Competition and Consumer Policy Section,
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation,
1 Earlsfort Centre,
Lower Hatch Street,
Dublin 2
D02PW01.

Freedom of Information

Attention is drawn to the fact that information provided to the Department may be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Therefore, should it be considered that any information provided is commercially sensitive, please identify same, and specify the reason for its sensitivity. The Department will consult with interested parties making submissions regarding information identified by them as sensitive before making a decision on any Freedom of Information request. Any personal information, which you

volunteer to this Department, will be treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality, strictly in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003.

Publication of Submissions

The Department may also decide to place any submissions received by it on the Department's website in due course. A decision on any such placement may occur without prior consultation with respondents to this consultation process. Thus, it is in the interests of respondents to highlight, in their submissions, any commercially sensitive or confidential information at the time of submission.

Queries

Further information may be obtained by contacting Competition and Consumer Protection Section of the Department at 01-6312612 (Paul Brennan) (or at paul.brennan@djei.ie) or Kieran Grace at 01- 6312676 (or at kieran.grace@djei.ie).

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