



CICRA media release

27 February 2013

CICRA launches pan-CI groceries study

CICRA (the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities) has formally announced its plans to review the cost of groceries in the Channel Islands today.

The aim of the study is to investigate the costs involved in the supply and retailing of groceries in both Guernsey and Jersey and to provide consumers with greater transparency as to the reasons for higher prices. If higher prices are not commercially justified, CICRA will make recommendations to Commerce & Employment in Guernsey and Economic Development in Jersey as to measures that would achieve better outcomes for consumers.

The study will focus on all products sold at supermarkets (i.e. groceries), and not just food and drink.

CICRA Chief Executive, Andrew Riseley, cautioned that consumers should not expect prices to fall as a direct result of the study.

“There is a general perception that prices for groceries in the Channel Islands are too high. Our study will undertake a comprehensive comparison of prices for a range of groceries in Guernsey, Jersey, the UK and the Isle of Man. We intend to focus on investigating what causes differences in prices and to examine the extent to which these differences can be explained and justified.

“The main aim of the study is to provide more transparency to consumers; it is important to note that CICRA does not have the powers, under the competition laws in either island, to require that retailers reduce their prices. However, if there are steps that we can identify that

may increase competition in this sector, then we would make recommendations to the relevant government departments.”

CICRA will be meeting with, and collecting information from, wholesalers, retailers and suppliers throughout the course of the investigation and will seek to publish the results in October once they have been shared with the States of Guernsey and Jersey. The Authorities will also be seeking the views of local consumers in Jersey and Guernsey and the launch of these surveys will be announced in the media in due course.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA Chief Executive, Andrew Riseley, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suites B1 & B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@bicra.gg.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.