

**OFT/ACE Evening Economics Seminar, 22nd April
The Relationship between Consumers and Competition**

Amelia Fletcher, Chief Economist of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), would like to invite you to an evening economics seminar on Tuesday 22 April. The seminar is being held jointly with the Association of Competition Economics (ACE).

The OFT is publishing two new economic research papers which look at the relationship between consumers and competition:

- The ESRC Centre for Competition Policy at the University of East Anglia will present their OFT discussion paper on **'Assessing the effectiveness of potential remedies in consumer markets'**. Consumers play a key role in activating competition and making markets work well. The aim of this research is to raise the understanding of the issues underlying consumer based remedies, identify implications for policy and identify gaps in our knowledge.
- Professor Mark Armstrong from the Department of Economics, University College, London will present his OFT discussion paper on **'Interactions between Competition and Consumer Policy'**. Markets will typically supply adequate customer protection without the need for extra public intervention. This paper examines when and why consumer policy interventions might nonetheless be required, and what the potential dangers are.

I very much hope you can attend. Refreshments will be served from 17:30, with the seminar starting at 18:00. A drinks reception and canapés will follow from 19:20, providing an opportunity to discuss the research in a more informal context.

If you would like to attend please let Shemina Kara (shemina.kara@oft.gsi.gov.uk) know **by Friday 11 April**. The seminar will be held at the Office of Fair Trading, Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8JX. For directions, see www.oft.gov.uk/shared_oft/about_oft/oftmap.pdf. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to interested colleagues.

I look forward to seeing you at the seminar.

Amelia Fletcher, Chief Economist, Office of Fair Trading