

## Watchdog checks out online selling

Anyone who buys and sells on the Internet could find themselves under the scrutiny of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

The OFT is checking out online retailing to see if customers are getting a good deal. The study will concentrate on four areas: auction sites; airline tickets; domestic electrical goods; and music sales (including downloads).

Together, these four areas account for a third of online trading. The OFT says it will consult widely with businesses, trade bodies, consumer groups and public sector organisations. It will also research consumer and business perceptions and enforcement practices.

John Fingleton, Chief Executive of the OFT, said: "The Internet is fast becoming a hugely important channel for consumers and businesses. This study is core to the OFT's mission to make markets work well for consumers." The OFT expects to publish its findings in spring 2007.

If you have any queries about the legal implications of on online trading either as a merchant or a buyer, please contact our Company Commercial department on **0115 9 100 200** or email [enquiries@actons.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@actons.co.uk)

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