



Department for Levelling Up,
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9 November 2022

A Competition and Markets Authority Study of the Housebuilding Sector

Dear Sarah,

I am writing to reiterate the Government's support for the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) consideration of a study into the housebuilding sector. I understand your Board has been considering taking this forward.

It is critical that we have a housebuilding sector that operates effectively to deliver the homes that people need. Housing plays a key role in achieving our Levelling Up ambitions. Buying a home is one of the most important decisions a family takes, with huge financial implications, so making sure this market is working in the interests of consumers is of the highest importance. The last housebuilding market study took place 14 years ago and since then, there have been significant changes in both the market and the challenges facing the country as a whole – such as net zero, changes to the structure of the market following the financial crisis and changing demographic trends.

Reflecting on the above, and in the context of increasing economic pressures, which are impacting on individual citizens and businesses alike, it feels timely that the CMA should be considering a market study. In the event such a study progressed, the Government would welcome recommendations for measures we, industry and the regulators could take to make sure the housing market is operating effectively.

We appreciate that you are an independent organisation. Nevertheless, my view is that this study is an important priority for the public and I would welcome a discussion with you and Marcus on how best we can support you if you choose to take it forward.

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities