

Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and  
Communities  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fry Building,  
2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF

From: Sarah Cardell  
*Interim Chief Executive, CMA*

22 November 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November and for the opportunity for Marcus and me to meet with you and your officials last week to discuss the housing sector. Access to affordable, high-quality places to live is an economic and social necessity, and a range of policy tools will be required to meet this need.

One of the requirements for delivering the homes people need is a thriving, competitive housebuilding sector. With this in mind, CMA staff have been developing proposals for work in this area, including a possible market study for the Board's consideration in January.<sup>1</sup> As we discussed, a market study would be a substantial piece of work, and it is crucial that careful consideration is given to its scope, to ensure suitable focus and efficiency. As a UK-wide body, the CMA must also account for the fact that housing policy is devolved. We will therefore also be engaging further with Devolved Administrations to help us consider the scope of any market study in this sector.

Market studies, which can take up to one year to complete, can lead to a range of outcomes, including policy recommendations to government. The UK Government's openness to such recommendations in respect of the housebuilding sector is therefore an important factor in the Board's consideration of proposals for a market study. I will make sure the Board is aware of your openness to such recommendations, and your Department's willingness to provide appropriate resource support.

We will provide you and your officials an update after the Board's January meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Under statute, responsibility for launching a market study sits with the CMA Board. It considers proposals for market studies in line with the CMA's [Prioritisation Principles](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Cardell', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Cardell,  
*Interim Chief Executive*