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From: Mr Andrea Coscelli CBE
Chief Executive

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Dear Charles, Alex

State of Competition

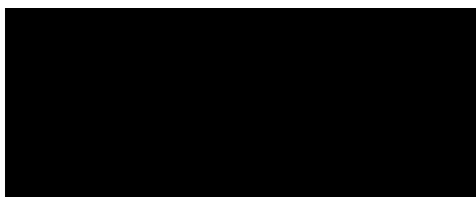
As you know, the CMA has been commissioned by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Treasury to prepare and publish regular reports on the state of competition in the UK. The terms of reference, which were published on the government's website with the commissioning letter on 5 February 2020, request the CMA's initial report by Summer 2020. I am writing to inform you that, in light of the coronavirus outbreak and its implications for the CMA's priorities, we have taken the decision to postpone this work until later in the year.

In the coming weeks, and in line with advice from central government, the CMA is reallocating resources to ensure that the most urgent and most critical work is prioritised. This includes the significant proportion of the CMA's work with binding statutory deadlines, like our merger control regime, and the critical advisory and monitoring work the CMA is doing to assist with the government's response to the virus. By postponing the state of competition project, we can immediately redeploy members of the team to assist with these efforts.

This does not change the CMA's view on the importance of assessing the state of competition across the UK. The CMA remains committed to measuring and monitoring how well competition is working across the UK and, given the unprecedented challenges now faced by many parts of the economy, this analysis will be every bit as important in the future. Our current plan is to reconvene the project in the Autumn and to publish our initial report early next year – though we will keep this under review as the situation develops.

I am available to discuss at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Coscelli
Chief Executive

