

Local Government and Regeneration
Committee Clerks
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Scottish Parliament
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From: Sheila Scobie
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Re: Air Weapons and Licensing Bill

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee's consultation on the Air Weapons and Licensing Bill issued 1 July 2014.

The CMA is a non-ministerial government department working to promote competition for the benefit of consumers and businesses across the UK. Our aim is to make markets work well for consumers, businesses and the economy. We are a new organisation being created out of a merger between the Competition Commission and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) in April 2014.

The CMA is responding to Section 5 of the consultation document regarding taxis and private hire vehicles. The OFT conducted a market study in 2003¹ on the regulatory framework affecting licensed taxi and private hire vehicles (PHVs) across the UK. The OFT concluded that the overall quality of taxi services could be enhanced by reforming elements of the regulatory framework and recommended the removal of quantity regulation.

The CMA would be keen to respond to any future consultation published by Scottish Government on guidance for licensing authorities on measuring overprovision.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Scobie
Head of Devolved Nations and CMA Representative for Scotland.

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http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140402142426/http://www.offt.gov.uk/shared_offt/reports/com_p_policy/oft676.pdf