

MARKET STUDY INTO THE SUPPLY OF FUNERALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Notice of proposal to make a market investigation reference under section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002

The Competition and Markets Authority ('the CMA') publishes this notice in accordance with section 131A(2) of the Enterprise Act 2002 ('the Act').

1. On 1 June 2018 the CMA published a market study notice, in accordance with section 130A of the Act, that the CMA proposed to carry out its functions under section 5 of the Act in relation to the supply of funerals (being the supply of funerals and related goods and services) in the United Kingdom, to consider the extent to which a matter in relation to the supply of those services has or may have effects adverse to the interests of consumers, and to assess the extent to which steps can and should be taken to remedy, mitigate or prevent any such adverse effects.
2. The CMA provided details of the market study, including detailed issues on which the CMA welcomed responses in writing, in a statement of scope document annexed to the market study notice.
3. The market study notice invited any persons wishing to make representations, including on whether the CMA should make a market investigation reference under section 131 of the Act, to do so in writing no later than 28 June 2018.
4. Representations have been made to the CMA, within the specified period, and the CMA is now proposing to make a reference under section 131 of the Act in relation to the supply in the United Kingdom of (a) services by funeral directors at the point of need; and (b) crematoria services, for the reasons set out in its interim report and consultation paper dated 29 November 2018.
5. In accordance with section 131B(5) of the Act, the CMA will publish its market study report no later than 31 May 2019 containing the decision to make a reference under section 131 of the Act, the decision to accept undertakings under section 154 of the Act instead of making such a reference or (as the case may be) the decision otherwise not to make a reference.