



**Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee**

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Christine Tacon CBE
Groceries Code Adjudicator

21st
May 2019

Dear Christine,

Thank you for giving evidence to the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee on 14 May. It is clear that since the establishment of the Groceries Code Adjudicator, there has been a marked and positive impact for suppliers. Thank you for leading that work.

We would like to ask some follow-up questions from the session.

You mentioned Northern Ireland as an example of an area of the UK with strong regional representation of smaller retailers. Can you address any issues or concerns that may arise from this with the powers that you have? (Q 25).

On the Sainsburys/ASDA merger, we asked whether the CMA contacted your office about the merger and their inquiry (Qs 38-39). Could you confirm whether the CMA did contact you, and if so at what stage of its investigation? What discussions were held with the CMA?

Finally, we would be grateful for your reflections, after 6 years in post, about what more could be done to improve the power imbalance between suppliers and the regulated retailers (Qs 77, 96). Would suppliers benefit from the provisions of the Code being expanded? How best should the Code be future-proofed? In what circumstances do you believe that your remit and powers should change to reflect the changing groceries market? Is another regulator or body best placed to deal with issues such as payment terms? Which other sectors could benefit from a Code and an Adjudicator?

The BEIS Committee will be taking evidence from the Competition and Markets Authority on 5 June. It would therefore be helpful to have a response to this letter by 3 June.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Reeves MP
**Chair of the Business Energy and
Industrial Strategy Committee**

Neil Parish MP
**Chair of the Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs Committee**