

FUNERALS MARKET INVESTIGATION

Notice of extension of the inquiry statutory period pursuant to sections 137(2A) and 172 of the Enterprise Act 2002

On 28 March 2019, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), in exercise of its powers under sections 131 and 133 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act), made a reference to the Chair of the CMA for the constitution of a group under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 (the Inquiry Group) for an investigation in relation to the supply of funerals and related goods and services in the United Kingdom (the Investigation).¹ The period within which the Inquiry Group was due to prepare and publish a report concerning the Investigation (the reference period) was due to expire on 27 September 2020.²

The Inquiry Group has decided that the reference period should be extended by six months under section 137(2A) of the Act for the reasons set out in the paragraph below. The revised reference period will expire on 27 March 2021.

In taking this decision, the Inquiry Group has had regard to the scope and complexity of the Investigation, the extent of the possible remedies package that is being contemplated, and the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. As a result, the Inquiry Group considers an extension is necessary to facilitate input from parties, allow sufficient time to take full and proper account of such input including any comments received in response to the working papers and provisional findings, and to reach a fully reasoned final decision.

In light of the above, the Inquiry Group is of the view that there are special reasons for extending the reference period.

16 March 2020

¹ For further information, see the [terms of reference](#).

² In accordance with section 137(1) of the Act.