

Market Study Notice

Children's Social Care

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) publishes this market study notice in accordance with section 130A of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act).

1. The CMA is proposing to carry out its functions under section 5 of the Act in relation to the supply of children's social care services in England, Scotland and Wales, 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. In this notice 'children's social care services' means the supply by and to local authorities of:
 - accommodation for looked-after children and associated care and support; and
 - fostering services for looked-after children.
3. Further details of the market study into children's social care services, including detailed issues on which the CMA would welcome responses, are provided in the Invitation to Comment document annexed to this notice.
4. The CMA now invites any persons wishing to make representations on the matter, 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 14 April 2021.
5. If the CMA proposes to make a market investigation reference or if a representation (as provided for in section 131A of the Act) has been made to the CMA that such a reference should be made but the CMA proposes not to make one, the CMA will publish a notice of that proposal and begin the process of consultation under section 131A(2)(b) of the Act no later than 11 September 2021.

6. Save where paragraph 4 applies, if the CMA decides not to make a market investigation reference under section 131 of the Act the CMA will publish notice of that decision no later than 11 September 2021.
7. The CMA will publish its market study report, setting out its findings in relation to the matter specified in this notice and the action (if any) which the CMA proposes to take in relation to that matter, no later than 11 March 2022.

12 March 2021

Competition and Markets Authority

Notes

- (i) Representations should be emailed to children@cma.gov.uk.
- (ii) A copy of this notice is placed on the [CMA web pages](#) on 12 March 2021.