

# Competition and Markets Authority: Mobile radio network for the police and emergency services

August 2021

## 1. About the Local Government Association

- 1.1. The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice of local government. We work with councils and fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) to support, promote and improve local government. We are a politically-led, cross-party organisation, which works to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice with national government.
- 1.2. This response provides you with the view of the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC).

## 2. Key issues

- 2.1. The FSMC has had long held concerns around the delays to Emergency Services Network (ESN) and the many implications, including financial, as a result. We have always highlighted particular concerns around the costs FRAs with the transfer to the ESN. We are therefore supportive of your aim to understand whether there have been adverse effects on competition in the supply of the Airwave network.
- 2.2. With the continued delays to the introduction of the ESN, perceptions of Motorola having a perverse incentive to keep extending the Airwave service at considerable expense to the public purse have been prevalent for some time and a concern for FRAs and the FSMC. The proposed Market Investigation Reference (MIR) relating to the Airwave network will aid in identifying if these concerns are founded, and, if so, to what degree, and what may be done to redress the balance for the public purse, especially if money is being unfairly paid to Airwave rather than on frontline emergency services.
- 2.3. We understand that the NFCC will be providing you with more detailed feedback on the issues that have faced the sector and we are supportive of their work.

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