

MINUTES OF THE CMA BOARD

Meeting date: 15 September 2021

Venue: The Cabot, 25 Cabot Square, London, E14 4QZ; by videoconference

Members present¹

Jonathan Scott (Chair)
Kirstin Baker
Martin Coleman
Andrea Coscelli (CEO)
Amelia Fletcher
Michael Grenfell
Bill Kovacic

CMA staff present^{2,3}

Lucy Robbins, Senior Director, People, Capability and Culture
Stuart Hudson, Senior Director, Strategy, Communications and Advocacy
Kate Bridge, Director of Executive Office
Sukhinder Lalli, Legal Director, Governance, Compliance and Risk
Board Secretary (minutes)

Advisors present

Sarah Cardell, General Counsel
Mike Walker, Chief Economic Adviser

Teams

The meeting was attended by staff from across the CMA including Directors from the delivery teams and the new functions, and staff from the Consumer and Policy and International teams.

Apologies

Cynthia Dubin
Erik Wilson

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed the Board members to the meeting. There were no new conflicts declared or declarations of gifts or hospitality.

2. Minutes

The Board approved the minutes and actions from the CMA Board meetings held on 21 July 2021 with no changes.

The Board acknowledged the committee minutes received.

3. Open Banking Committee update

The Board was updated on the recent work of the Committee.

¹ KB left the meeting at the end of item 8.

² SH and SC left the meeting for 30 minutes at 11.30am, missing item 5.

³ LR left the meeting during item 10.

4. Chief Executive's update including Corporate risk register, External guidance tracker and Future Operating Model

The CEO updated the Board on the work of the CMA, including updates on recent mergers, litigation and other developments in CMA cases and projects. The Board noted the Risk Register and the External guidance tracker. The Board was also updated on the ongoing plans to bring back CMA staff to the offices and the strategy to introduce hybrid working.

5. Panel update

The Chair of the CMA Panel updated the Board on recent discussions with the Panel Chairs.

6. Digital Markets Unit update

The Board received an update on the progress towards the establishment of the Digital Markets Unit. It noted that the government's consultation is currently open, and that various engagement events were planned for September.

7. CMA Public Response to BEIS' Reform Consultation

The Board discussed the CMA's response to BEIS' current consultation on reforming competition and consumer policy. It noted that the consultation closes on 1 October and that our response will be public. The Board delegated the final approval of the Response to the General Counsel.

8. Update on the CMA's consumer protection law portfolio and strategy

The Board considered the recent developments in the CMA's consumer protection law enforcement work, noting the CMA's response to urgent Covid-19 issues and the potential impact of any reforms coming out of BEIS' current consultation on competition and consumer policy. It also discussed the wider strategy for the CMA's consumer enforcement portfolio.

9. Office for the Internal Market: update ahead of launch

The Board was updated on the team's work to launch the OIM on 21 September and its associated wider strategy as it enters the next phase of its development.

The Board then formally agreed changes to the Board Authorisations and XCo's Terms of Reference to reflect the launch of the OIM.

10. The international landscape and our relationships with the FTC, EC and other enforcers

The Board held a wide-ranging and strategic discussion on the CMA's position on the global stage and its relationship with other enforcement agencies.

11. AOB

The Board reviewed the meeting, noting that the first hybrid meeting held by the Board since the start of the Covid crisis had worked well, thanking the teams who supported the meeting. The Board then agreed some changes to the October Board meeting agenda.