

**Councillor Martin McCluskey**  
**Ward 5 – Inverclyde West (Gourock)**  
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By email

Direct Line:  
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Our Ref: MM/amcl  
Your Ref:  
Date: 2 August 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Invitation to Comment on your proposed Road fuel market study. I am responding on behalf of my constituents in Gourock, which is part of the Inverclyde Council area.

I agree with all the broad principles of the scope of your study. I wish to comment specifically on your proposals regarding fuel retailing.

While fuel prices at supermarkets may have been lower in the past, as you suggest in your document, supermarkets do not seem to be competing as aggressively on price as they once did. This is particularly true in Inverclyde. Responses I have received from the supermarket petrol retailers suggest they are “locally competitive”, which would suggest they set prices based on their local competition. It would be beneficial for the study to extend to look at whether setting prices based on local competition is, in itself, anti-competitive as it could artificially inflate prices in an outlying locality.

I would also urge you to not simply investigate the urban/rural divide in petrol prices. In areas such as Inverclyde (which is not rural) we have suffered from considerably higher petrol prices than our neighbouring local authority areas for years. If you are seeking areas to act as case studies, I would urge you to look to Inverclyde where residents feel that they have been at the sharp end of higher fuel prices for years.

Yours sincerely

Martin McCluskey  
Councillor

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