



The Road Fuel Market Study Team
Competition and Markets Authority
Victoria House
37 Southampton Row
London
WC1B 45AD

6 January 2023

RE: Comment on the Supply of road fuel in the United Kingdom market study Initial update report – 6 December 2022.

Dear Sir/madam,

We have read with interest the initial update report and welcome the opportunity to comment on it. As you are aware the Consumer Council gave evidence to the Market Study Team regarding the operation of the Northern Ireland fuel market and our online Fuel Checker.

We note the report describes Northern Ireland as being in a geographically unique position and suggests the shared land border with the Republic of Ireland is the reason for lower prices in Northern Ireland than the UK average.

Due to its unique features we would welcome further analysis of the Northern Ireland fuel market in the next stage of the study. This could serve to confirm the reasons for fuel cost disparity between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK and provide insights into Northern Ireland market features that could be of benefit to consumers across the UK. It could also provide Northern Ireland consumers with reassurance that they are being adequately protected in this unique market.

The Consumer Council team look forward to ongoing engagement with you and remain happy to provide the insights and information we have available to assist you in the next stage of the market study.

Your sincerely,

Richard Williams
Head of Transport