



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security
& Net Zero
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Sarah Cardell
Chief Executive, Competition and Markets Authority
The Cabot, 25 Cabot Square
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2nd August 2023

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter to me on 19 July 2023 regarding the CMA's recommendations in its 3 July road fuel market study report, for the introduction of a statutory open data scheme and ongoing road fuel prices monitoring function. I would also like to thank you for attending the roundtable on 17 July 2023 with fuel trade associations and key fuel retailers to update on the CMA's plans for an interim voluntary scheme by the end of August.

It is unacceptable for some fuel retailers to have failed to pass on savings now that fuel costs have fallen. It is wrong that at a time when households are struggling with increased living costs, they are not getting a fair deal on fuel and are being overcharged. That is why the Government accepted the CMA's recommendations to increase transparency in order to empower drivers to find the best prices possible for their fuel.

I want to reiterate the Government's strong support for the CMA's temporary scheme for major retailers to make their daily prices available in a common, machine-readable format by the end of August. I strongly expect retailers to co-operate with the CMA to develop the voluntary scheme to this timeline and I will not hesitate to call out any foot dragging. Please do keep my officials abreast of participation in the voluntary scheme so we can act if necessary.

I am aware the interim voluntary scheme will not deliver the full benefits of the statutory open data scheme. It will though make a difference to consumers in the interim who will be able to shop around for the best deals using better data and encourage greater competition, which will in turn exert downward pressure on prices. In our view, this will help to ease the cost of living and help to halve inflation this year – one of the Prime Minister's five priorities.

The interim voluntary scheme will also provide a crucial steppingstone towards delivering the end state solution of a statutory open data scheme as my Department develops the consultation and the necessary legislation. The Government of course remains committed to delivering this mandatory scheme, backed by legislation, as

soon as possible. It is encouraging to also hear that you are working with my officials to explore how best to manage the transition between the August interim voluntary scheme and the statutory scheme, including through exploring the possibility of introducing a form of the end state solution on a voluntary basis before the legislation is in place.

My officials will continue to work with you closely on the delivery of the interim voluntary scheme as well as the forthcoming consultation, due in the autumn.

I would like to thank you and your team for your continued work on this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Grant Shapps". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and 'S'.

RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero